

SOTO LIFE

ROBERTO F E SOTO



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What's a small decision you made that ended up having a big impact on your life?



Accepting an offer to drive my sister-in-law's new Mustang to see her friend. I had a permit, so I could not drive alone. And this is how it began. When we arrived, at first sight, I saw Maria Elena. She was a living doll who became my girlfriend, my wife, and the mother of my two bright and beautiful daughters. I'm a husband, a proud father, a grateful grandfather, and Godfather. And even though I have no political affiliation, I was recruited and served under a GOP POTUS and later as AP Bureau Chief. But my greatest joy is being called Grandpa or GB, aka #GrandpaBob. I have had a rich and fulfilling life, filled with eclectic and extraordinarily exceptional experiences ranging from professional achievements and academic awards to the real joys

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of having a family.

Being a husband, father, Godfather, and grandpa brings immense happiness, hugs, and satisfaction. My motto is to embrace intelligence, face challenges with positivity, and adapt to change.

Family and wisdom are central to my core values. I thank God for my healthy and wonderful grandkids, Elena, Chloe, Sophia, Parker, and Olivia. My wish and hope for all of them is the following. Worship your forefathers and mothers, stay healthy, keep reading, and question everything you don't understand.

Over the years, I learned that Living Doll had many alcoholics in her family, and she became increasingly belligerent while inebriated. I was offered a job far away, and since my daughters were adults, I filed for divorce and turned over everything I owned to her, so she could sell our house and share it with our daughters. Instead, she refused to sell and lost the home on the hill overlooking Burbank.

The takeaway is to embrace intelligence and face every challenge with an open mind while concentrating on positive energy and adapting to many changes. Finally, I want my kids and grandkids to know that although I've gone from riches to rags, to riches, and rags again, I am now back on my feet. I'll be your promoter and protector. I'll be your emotional rescue!

What's the first major news story you can remember living through as a child?



The Cuban Revolution was not only the first major news story of my youth, but it altered my entire life. I saw what a young boy should never have to witness. Death and destruction abound.

We lived in a gorgeous house that my architect and attorney father designed overlooking a large wooded area. Our family was well off, as my grandparents were successful. My mother's dad served as Commerce prime minister under Cuba's last democratically elected president. My father's dad was a wealthy owner of several businesses, and landmarks including the land where Tropicana sits and El Bosque de La Habana. Years after we left everything behind, the government appropriated all. Castro transformed our home into an embassy and created the National

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Botanical Garden of Cuba in 1968, establishing a space for the conservation and study of tropical flora, with a particular focus on native vegetation of over 4K plant species and has gained international recognition for its dedication to education and environmental conservation. This Cuban paradise is situated in



Habana at coordinates: $23^{\circ}7'59.88''$ N, $82^{\circ}21'59.76''$ W.

For more CUBA information, please visit #CityImages my Blog.

<https://cimages.me/taxonomy/term/65>

How did you get your first job?



Grit and determination are qualities that helped me achieve my goals and overcome challenges. Grit is my ability to persevere and maintain passion for a long-term objective, while determination is my purpose and resolve to pursue professional goals. Both are essential for my eclectic communications career. In Spanish, its called ganas. The desire to win!

I walked into the downtown Miami building without an appointment, asked to speak to the administrator on call, and met the station manager. who gave me my first opportunity at WPLG-TV a Post Newsweek-owned broadcasting powerhouse. Once my first bundle of joy arrived I had to find a better paying job. I was then hired as a general assessment reporter for WINZ AM/FM, and later as WNWS Broward Bureau Chief in South Florida.

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My eclectic career took me to NBC in NYC, where I was hired as a senior producer to launch The Source Radio Network, with a young adult news and public affairs format. I went on to work in television for nearly a decade. In 1990, as an Executive Producer at Univision, moved my family to Southern California.

Three decades later, my two daughters are their families still live and love in LA. Sorry about that. I'm ready to leave The Big Apple. It's too cold here in more ways than one.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBCa7aq_nAI

As a seasoned multilingual media executive specializing in media startups and turnarounds, I have served as a public affairs, media relations, community outreach, and marketing chief for the past two decades. My management credits include Sr. Producer - NBC, Executive Producer - Univision, Telemundo - News Director, USIA/VOA - Division Chief, Cablevision - Station Manager, AP, - Bureau Chief, and Imaginus, where I serve as SVP.

What advice would you give to future generations in your family?



Here are some insightful and encouraging words. Never allow an experience to define you. Use the opportunity to grow and thrive.

It goes to show the impact that supportive guidance can have on someone's journey. I was once told that I gave good phone advice. These words were from a well-known activist who committed a crime and I suggested he turn himself in. https://www.pbs.org/opb/thesixties/topics/revolution/newsmakers_2.html

Years ago, turns out that a student realized a bad fit for their class and dropped it. On the last D/A day, I told the scholar. Just because you didn't fit doesn't mean you won't fit elsewhere. This is only one of many academic courses. You'll find one more

suiting for you. Whatever issues you had there, you can learn from but don't burden yourself with your next challenge. Also don't second-guess yourself. Whatever definition you have for yourself now, isn't the definition you must drag to your next opportunity. You have a unique moment to define yourself at your next challenge. BTW: That person went on to do great things and is now successful, thriving, and doing fantastic.

There are many times when we crash and burn because it is not for us. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLkOLEkomo8>

We should all learn to move on, heal, grow, and some even wind up doing good things for all. Find the best place to be. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BrgdhkH4Pc&list=PLz6cAheObZciTyMkNyknGKOWIcatFhKN5>

“Believe you can do it” – Unknown.

Never give up, ever” – Anonymous.

“Live, love, laugh, repeat” – Unknown.

Mind your own business. Find beauty in everything. Listen to your Parents. Collect memories, not things. Everything happens for a reason. All things must pass. Life is about acceptance. Listen to your instincts. Great things take time. Your life, your choices. Think twice before speaking. Think fast, talk slow. Never stop asking questions. Love yourself before others. Happiness is the choice. Show mercy to yourself.

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I ought to know A poet, a pawn, and a Chief. I've been up and down and over and out. And I know one thing. Each time I find myself flat on my face. I pick myself up and get back in the race. That's life I can't deny it. I thought of quitting, baby. But my heart just ain't gonna buy it.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNvbVKy8vb4>

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What's one of the most beautiful places you've ever been?



I've traveled throughout America, Europe, and Asia. The delivery rooms at Miami Hospitals were gorgeous sights!

Immediately after they were born, the faces of Natasha and Sabrina, my two gorgeous baby daughters, may have been smushed from the journey through the birth canal.

Their little beautiful heads were temporarily cone-shaped.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6Qnd5vnpN0&t=146s>

Then came the look of love. When they smiled. Our baby's first smile lit up our lives around the 2-month mark.

Up until then, we were working for demanding bosses.

That's when I began to have dreams of two successful people.

My wife and I got through the exhaustion and emotional upheaval, and our efforts in those early days weren't lost on us.

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I'd smile from cheek to cheek every time they called me Daddy
and dreamed of the time they'd have children.

And everything has turned out better than a major motion
picture.

In what ways were your parents strict or relaxed?



My parents were strictly supportive, sacrificing much for a future in paradise. Once in America, it was the bare necessities.

I was born on a large island in the middle of the century, but I can not return to my homeland under the present political regime. The phrase Pearl of the Antilles was reportedly coined by a European artist whose 1873 book of illustrations bears the title “The Pearl of the Antilles.

Even though probably the most famous one is just one of many praising names given to this Caribbean island, being the largest in the region, it offers the most natural resources and is considered to be the most beautiful. Also, its geographical position made it the best location to launch expeditions to Spain.

I am not alone, and I know others feel the same for various reasons, but I can only speak for myself. Regardless of which

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language one speaks. My homeland is HABANA, CUBA.

As an adult and a professional journalist, I was shot at in El Salvador, and launched major media newsrooms, I yraled with The Pope on tour in Mexico and the Dominican Republic, and witnessed 911 at Ground Zero. I now reflect on a professional American career.

The lessons I learned from my parents along the way after leaving home as a Cuban political refugee, becoming a proud American citizen, and being recruited to serve POTUS.

While I'm amazed by the opportunities afforded to me by this great nation as a young immigrant, I persevered after failing, while encouraged to try again and succeed.

I am very proud of my children and grandkids, who have grown up with good values and principles, and hopefully will continue to tell the story of their parents and grandparents. I'm also very fortunate to be the youngest son of Margarita and Antonio Soto. I'm also blessed to have served this great nation at a time in which it was called upon me to do so as a federal government USIA TV Chief for President George HW Bush.

Again, my parents were strict and supportive, and I thank God every day that my life has evolved this special way with all of you to share with.

If you had to go back in time and start a brand new career, what would it be?



A stay-at-home dad working remotely would have been more fun, productive, and less dangerous than working as a journalist.

I could have taught my daughters how to read, write, and speak Spanish fluently. I would have been able to explain the reason why it was important for them to do the same with their children for cultural and professional reasons. They did splendidly professionally. For me, it came in handy working as a general assignment reporter and then a news producer throughout Latin America. I told my kids I was going to see gorillas, not guerrillas.

Spanish for The Savior, El Salvador's Prisons are full, not Ministries. Religious organizations are struggling to reach residents in a nation where 1 in 50 people is locked up in prison. The situation in El Salvador regarding its high incarceration rate and the challenges faced by faith-based organizations trying to

reach folks is concerning.

It was years later, after paying my dues, that I got my first management gig. Now, as a veteran Spanish and English language media executive, I see many people in top news media management jobs without experience.

So please allow me to also express my thoughts on news organizations appointing leaders without significant newsroom experience, emphasizing the unique cultural and operational challenges inherent in the newsgathering process.

Cultural Disconnect: Newsrooms operate under distinct values and motivations, often attracting individuals driven by creativity, the pursuit of truth, and societal impact rather than financial gain. This cultural ethos is crucial in maintaining journalistic integrity and public trust. **Historical Leadership:** Traditionally, top positions in news organizations were filled by individuals with editorial backgrounds or those who underwent comprehensive immersion in newsroom dynamics. This ensured leaders understood the intricacies of journalism beyond mere profitability. **Shift in Leadership:** Recent years have seen a shift where business leadership increasingly comes from non-editorial roles like legal, advertising, or financial management. This change was partly a response to economic challenges but also highlighted deficiencies in previous business

strategies. Special Nature of News Business: Leading a news organization requires more than recognizing the role of the press in democracy; it necessitates a deep appreciation and consumption of news content. Leaders should align with newsroom values and understand the adversarial nature of journalistic pursuits against government and corporate interests.

Cultural Adaptation:

Leaders without newsroom experience must demonstrate cultural adaptation and a commitment to winning over the newsroom. They need to support journalistic endeavors for transparency and access while respecting the adversarial relationship inherent in journalism. Impact on Morale: Ignoring newsroom morale and failing to grasp its importance can undermine organizational effectiveness, especially in non-profit entities. Journalism is about telling the truth and entertaining.

In essence, while diversifying leadership can bring new perspectives, appointing leaders without sufficient newsroom understanding risks diluting journalistic integrity and operational effectiveness. The challenge lies in finding leaders who not only grasp the business side but also respect and enhance the unique culture and mission of journalism.

Working as a general assignment reporter and then a field producer throughout Latin America.

Spanish for The Savior, El Salvador's Prisons Are Full not Ministries. Religious organizations are struggling to reach residents in a nation where 1 in 50 people is locked up in prison. The situation in El Salvador regarding its high incarceration rate and the challenges faced by Christian organizations trying to reach prisoners is indeed concerning.

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and mission of journalism.

In your opinion, when is the right time to retire?
Never stop doing what you enjoy because it keeps us young and active, which is my formula for a long and fulfilling professional life.



Since I qualified for Social Security benefits, I've been teaching at institutions of higher learning. My mother was an educator, so it felt like an obvious transition since the media industry was going through massive adjustments, leading to layoffs.

Managing classrooms is a challenge for every professor, representing the interests of my students, chairs, deans, provosts, or presidents. Managing up is a skill that merits careful

consideration. After all, resources and opportunities may depend on doing it well. Ideally, I work in an environment of trust where we understand that a win for one of you is a win for all. I therefore approach my challenges with a win-win mindset.

Some thoughts while looking back at my eclectic career in media.

<https://cimages.me/content/THE-BEAT-CONTINUES>

I've been writing and producing my daily Blog for over a decade.

#CityImages <https://cimages.me/> and also developing websites like #DONews <https://www.doseofnews.com/>

The financial rewards may not be significant, but besides my enjoyment, the analytics reports are another reason to continue.

Transitioning media to academia from the newsroom to the classroom has been interesting, and I adapted well, channeling my skills into teaching and managing various groups effectively.

Balancing the interests of students, and administration while maintaining a win-win mindset is no small feat, and I've embraced that challenge.

My commitment to writing and producing daily content through the blog and developing websites is challenging. I'm passionate about staying engaged and providing valuable content, even if the financial rewards are modest. The analytics reports are rewarding, as they reflect the impact and reach of my efforts.

Given the complexity of managing a blog, a website, and teaching responsibilities, it's great that I can continue to

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contribute meaningfully to my fields of interest.

It's also good to know that Medicare benefits are helping with doctor bills. Yirong's breast cancer treatment has been admirable in that she maintains a great and positive attitude while working a part-time job for health insurance benefits. Balancing home and health needs is difficult, but we're OKAY.

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Did you have any pets growing up?



YES, one horse and two outdoor dogs, because of my allergies. First a horse when I was a child in Cuba, and then in America when we had two beautiful daughters, another all along the way.

My horse's name was CUCA, but I don't remember why I chose that name. All I can say is that it was cuckoo when I had to leave my best friend to move to the USA.

Then when Natasha and Sabrina, my two little angels were old enough to play in the yard with Buzzy they enjoyed it, but they too had to bid farewell to our family-friendly German shepherd dog when we moved from Miami to New Jersey because we no longer had a yard for Bzzy to play.

Finally, there was Simon. We became friends as soon as I moved to Texas to build a broadcast station on The Rio Grande. I lived on a seven-acre ranch on the shores of Lake Amistad in Texas. I

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paid 500 a month to Carlos, the owner who built it for his wife before her illness.

I soon saw a dog crossing the river and I befriended it. adopted Simon and took very care of him so he returned the favor by saving my life one night while gazing at the star, a rattlesnake appeared in the night too close for comfort. The snake ceased to live. We celebrated and after I completed my station project, and since a neighbor took a liking to Simon I had to say goodbye because I was moving once again. The news beat continued... And so it goes.



What was one of the most romantic moments in your life? Our wedding. The last one that our children and the kids attended, along with old friends and family. Some lost but not forgotten.



It is most important for us to remember that our friends and family members who were there to celebrate our special day may have forgotten our wedding day, we continue to love and respect one another for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer...

My new bride, Mrs. Yirong Soto asked me to explain the meaning of for better or for worth. I said it was for worse and she agreed.

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FOR BETTER & FOR WORTH?

<https://cimages.me/content/FOR-BETTER-FOR-WORTH>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVsPmyYdN_o



COMO FUE?

Did you ever get in trouble in school?



YES. Yes and yes... The Christian brothers, the Sisters of Charity, and in public school. My track record was dismal until I went to college.

I now live on an island in a 100-year-old building that was formerly a NYC public school and my unit was the principal's office.

My last full year of grammar school in Cuba was in the third grade and when I came to the USA, my math skills placed me at the fifth-grade level, but my English skills were ZERO.

Those following years brought me sweat and tears. Bullies mocking my lack of English skills, physical harassment, and fist fights in my new country. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76EodonYobY&list=PLIh8pUIWeE66wloQUzGesH-wpN-COCoiT>
This recording hit home in more ways than one.

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The only person in the class, besides Ms. Calhoun who tried to help me was a nice girl named Roberta. I never saw her again as we moved from Miami to New Jersey.

What are your favorite songs?



As a long-time band member, DJ, and music content producer, I'll try to answer by saying I love all music and some songs more than others. While listening, I fear no danger, I think of friends, not foes... Do you want to give it a try?

First of all, my MoM's song was recorded in Spanish.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__MGhcaT1HSM

Mexican composer Álvaro Carrillo wrote this classic song. The title translates to "Taste of Me" in English and speaks of a deep, undeniable attraction between two people. The song's opening lines set the tone: "When do you think of leaving me? How much time do you think you still have?"

The lyrics continue in this vein, describing the strong emotions that run through the narrator's mind as they contemplate their intense attraction to the other person. The song is famous for its romantic, almost poetic language, which has made it a favorite

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among Latin American audiences for decades. WoW

My DaD's favorite song was released in English.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSL-YtVV9U4>

When I was four, The Chords recorded it in 1954. However, it was in the cover version of a white group The Crew Cuts, released in the same year, that gained immense popularity and became a significant part of the doo-wop genre.

Nevertheless, this catchy tune quickly climbed the charts and remained a timeless classic. The lyrics of Sh-Boom depict a dreamlike state, where the singer longs for a life filled with happiness and harmony. The song narrates a desire to escape from the troubles of everyday life and find solace in a world where dreams come true. It reflects the yearning for a perfect existence, where there is no sadness or strife, and life is simply a joyous experience. The repetitive "sh-boom, sh-boom" in the song's refrain adds a playful and rhythmic element, captivating listeners and inviting them to join in the cheerful atmosphere. The lyrics paint a picture of a utopian world where the worries of reality are easily forgotten, and there is a profound sense of optimism and nostalgia.

I offer this eclectic mix that your ears may enjoy:

A Mi Madre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlaRvi1Kook&list=RDaFldzg4FIFM&index=3>

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Cast your faith to the wind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAh4gYZdDUg>

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pJzhwY5QIM>

Como Fue? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVsPmyYdN_o

TOTO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23FQZasxMfo&list=PLjDZIJ>

[qpFfFDiCVgqrRjVhzTegXUQGm7L](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23FQZasxMfo&list=PLjDZIJ)

Aja

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmdiKePVUy8&list=OLAK5u>

[y_m2pu_kyUn6OVjwuPgltpCwKc4Y406qFKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmdiKePVUy8&list=OLAK5u)

Pet Sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tospkrwl9Qk&list=PLj5Tm>

[O4kroQH4XM8P3JavVop7Gtnno1E2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tospkrwl9Qk&list=PLj5Tm)

Hot Buttered Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVCMYoaIKIo>

Rumors

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLfcwDZ5GzQ&list=PL6ogd>

[CG3tAWjN3nOVWjA6DCwYYKAMk5-f](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLfcwDZ5GzQ&list=PL6ogd)

911

<https://youtu.be/p6yLQRF-cEU?si=RIezMZcdWoVXx3WI>

Down From Dover

<https://youtu.be/MZ1IL8R5sSY?si=MbgX-TvxsouhwhmU>

Last but not least - The Fab Four

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uQuX1sOYk4&list=PLYq_mcte9NvDA2Xi5Qjl1DrH5LuDKDLAI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12R4FzIhdoQ>



Things go better with Rhum and Coke w/ BoB. UB, GB.

This is a cool interactive test for music fans.

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/hazelyxlee/old-soul-young-soul-music-quiz> - Try it you'll like it!

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I took it and it says I'm an old soul! Wise beyond my years with a deep appreciation for the past. Some may say I was born
<https://youtu.be/fcTQCNntGES?si=ofpR4Anbmttk1YSM>

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What is one of the best trips you've ever taken? What made it great?



Going to the hospital with my pregnant wife and soon-to-be MoM to meet my two daughters who were born beautiful, healthy, and now wiser. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWVPULYQWjk&list=RDGMEMYvZjTda73N9ELOQo2TnYng&start_radio=1&rv=z7tVlFYH_-I

Then taking them to their first day of school as a proud Pappa. <https://youtu.be/AuatofPmP2g?si=FzFXD157y3G4FWIB>

Traveling with them at home and abroad was wonderful. Whether it was to get away and camp out in the woods, travel to a Mexican villa south of the border, or on a family vacation to Puerto Rico an island alive with a happy and easygoing population full of culture, music, and food.

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The small island has forests beaches and mountains.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl4-QEX-1U8>

We crossed this Caribbean wonderland's beautiful beaches, where I once skinny-dipped as a college student, and then visited the tropical rainforest. It reminded me of a tiny slice of El Bosque De La Habana my homeland, where I dream of returning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdswDhJUmlw>

We also enjoyed a stay in Morelia, Michoacan, and lived in a gorgeous Villa, with all the vacation luxuries one can ask for.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sF-9ItYRq4U>

Later, as a news manager, I had the pleasure of visiting Europe and Asia representing The Associated Press. These were by invitation and not on my dime, which made it mighty fine.

What's your favorite way to travel?



My favorite travels were with my children. It was a rich recipe for total enjoyment and fabulous family fun. We traveled around the States and overseas, including Mexico and Puerto Rico, where we had a great time.

However, traveling on the company expense account can also be fun and financially rewarding.

I also enjoy traveling by reading and with my hands and fingertips. I write a daily blog. If you are interested in reading all about it, I invite you to read my blog #CityImages.

On the top left, there are three lines that I call the hamburger. Click on it and you can read the glossary of stories for more than an entire decade, and so it goes. <https://cimages.me/>

Thank you for your time.

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How do you think the world will be different in 30 years?



Hopefully, all my children will be approaching my age and some grandkids will become parents and teach their children well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkaKwXddT_I

This will happen if we take care of our planet still have our basic freedoms in place and the rich pay their fair share of US taxes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwBPomwvegC>

Sleek architecture and, by the 2053 alien spaceship. Or a spaceship, with a Millenium-Falcon-esque design AI-controlled

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We all go through many life changes and it is impossible to predict what our future lives have in store for us. My late mother liked to say “Enjoy life in the present that is why it is a gift. “Also in Spanish, she would tell me “Todo lo que pasa conviene y si esta para ti nadie te lo quita.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEKNcVOPdQ0> English for “everything happens for a reason and if it is meant for you, no one will take it away.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Donu7G5k4UA>

On a personal note, my first paid producer job was with Chirino the first version of this recording.

Los Del Rio recorded this second version of the song. I moved to Del Rio Texas to build KTRG, a Television from the Rio Grande.

Do you have a family member you wish you'd gotten to know better?



The honest answer is all of them, especially my mom, dad their parents, uncles aunts, and great-grandparents.

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO



Things are different today, everyone is living in their silos and do not show interest in anyone or anything else because they rely on anti-social media.

This is one of the reasons why I gave up on X and don't go on to Facebook, Instagram, or the others frequently.

I use my blog to communicate with the outside world and also rely on the professional platform known as aka

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/imaginus/>

One of my kids expressed shock once that I did not know about a serious matter after it made it on these media platforms.

CityImages <https://cimages.me/content/GRATITUDE>

What places would you want to visit over and over again?



Stokes Forest, Puerto Rico, and Mexico vacations with my kids

As I prepare to celebrate another birthday and reflect on my life journey, I want to preach with a place deep in my heart.

I've seen so much and had many moments, some filled with laughter and others not at all. I know I haven't always treated all of you as you rightfully deserve, so I am truly sorry.

You mean the world to me. The love I hold is deeper than words can express, and I hope you can feel the sincerity behind my intentions. Each of you has taught me invaluable lessons and shown me unconditional love, even when I faltered.

In this moment of honesty, I can only seek your forgiveness. I carry you with me always, in a special place where there's no distance or time, and I cherish every memory we've created

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together.

Thank you for your patience your understanding, and for being the fabulous family you are. I love you dearly, and I look forward to celebrating many more moments together.

I've said some corny things and sang many songs

I've made more bad rhymes too many times

I've acted out my love in many stages

I wish I was not so far away so I'm sending this to all of you!

What were your favorite subjects in high school?



History was my fave in school. I recently learned it is my grandson's favorite. This song was once a friend of mine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_MkCV_MkgE

The best historical media content is the very first recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oH8Q4QD-cM>

Then this one, a recent version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VE9I8su8Oo>

Perhaps I like history because as a child I was an eyewitness to the Cuban revolution in real time and it has not stopped since.

It is said that journalists report on the first draft of history.

Many journalists give former Washington Post President and Publisher Philip L. Graham credit for being the first to describe journalism as “the first rough draft of history.”

I attribute the remark to Graham and implied that he was the first to say or write it. Also, it was my first professional employer. WPLG was named after Phillip L. Graham of The Washington Post. But others have said similar things. Former Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee gave credit to Graham in an interview with *American Heritage* in 1982. The Newseum, the Washington Post, the *Encyclopedia of American Journalism*, Jon Meacham in *Newsweek*, David Halberstam in *The Powers That Be*, and Kit Rachlis in *Los Angeles* magazine—to give just a few examples—all attribute it to Phillip L. Graham.

Even the *New York Times* attributed the comment to Graham. But that piece wasn't written by a *Times* reporter.

But my belief that Graham had coined the phrase was broken. I was browsing search engines and came across one I had never read before. The phrase was linked to an earlier source—a 1943 book review in the *New Republic*. Journalist Alan Barth wrote, “News is only the first rough draft of history.”

This finding encouraged me to load a few databases of my own, leading to my discovery that Philip Graham used the phrase before 1963. On March 8, 1953, he addressed the American Society for Public Administration on the subject of the press. In his remarks—reprinted in the spring 1953 edition.

The inescapable hurry of the press inevitably means a certain degree of superficiality. It is neither within our power nor our

province to be ultimately profound. We write 365 days a year the first rough draft of history and a great task. Check my #CityImages Blog <https://cimages.me/>

“The reporter is one who every twenty-four hours dictates a first draft of history.” the full phrase earlier than the Graham speech in the June 13, 1948, Washington Post. On a full page, Publisher Philip L. Graham wrote to promise Post readers the newspaper’s “continued independence.” Beneath his promise was a non-blinded article titled “Platform of the Washington Post.” News is the first rough draft of history... And so it goes.

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How far back can you trace your family ancestry?



I met my grandparents but unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of speaking or reading about their parents and grandparents.

I once considered reaching out to Dr. Gates to request a family tree, but the tree fell in the forest and no one heard it.

My grandparents' ancestors are allegedly traced back to Europe. Specifically Spain, France, and Italy. Possibly Hernando De Soto. The 16th-century Spanish explorer and conquistador Hernando de Soto arrived in the West Indies as a young man and went on to fame and fortune in the Central American slavery trade. He supplied ships for Francisco Pizarro's southward expedition and ended up accompanying Pizarro in his conquest of Peru in 1532.

Marco Polo was a Venetian merchant and adventurer who traveled from Europe to Asia in 1271–95, remaining in China for 17 of those years. "The Million", known in English as The

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Travels of Marco Polo, is a classic of adventure literature.

What are your favorite places to spend time in the summer?



With a limited budget, and retired besides visiting my family I prefer #StayCations.

I enjoy City Island - A Slice of NYC Paradise.

<https://cityislandchamber.org/>

Orchard Beach is finally being restored to its early years when Robert Moses was the Chief.

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/beaches/1>

The horses and other secrets in Pelham Bay Park

<https://www.untappedcities.com/the-top-10-secrets-of-pelham-bay-park-in-nyc/>

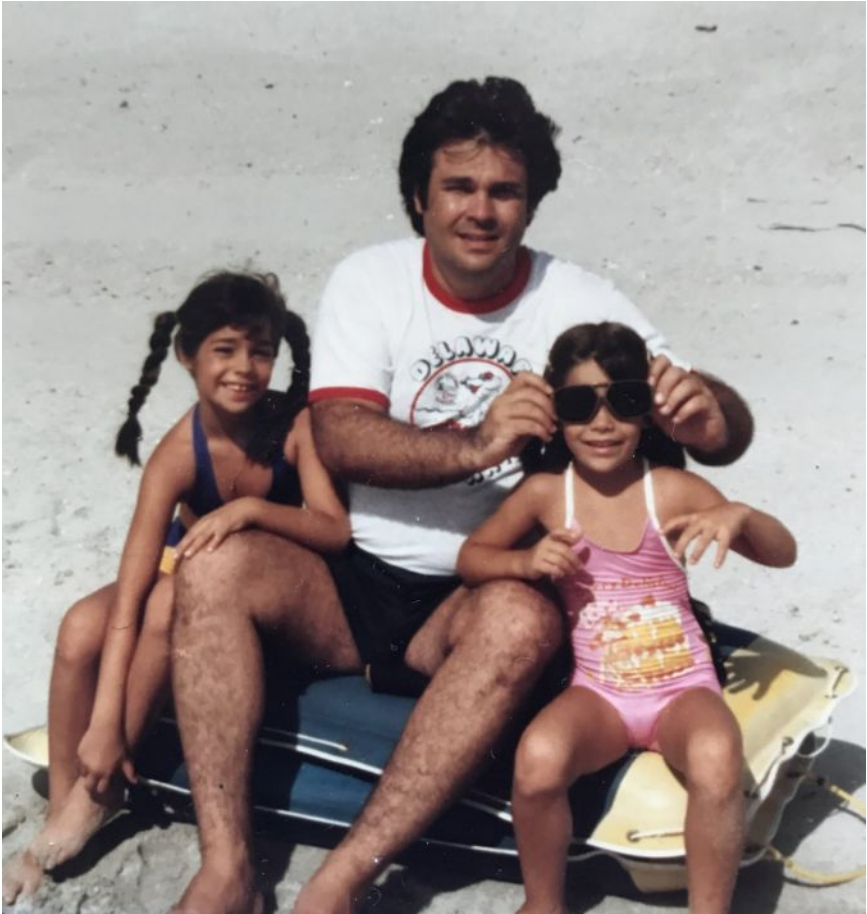
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Who inspires you?



My family is my constant inspiration, specifically my parents, siblings, wife, children, and wonderful grandchildren.

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When my students ask me to describe success, I tell them it's whenever my family reaches out for advice, not for money.

Also, my professional and life experiences are extremely helpful.

Before I became a traveling gypsy scholar, I was a nomad.

<https://cimages.me/content/MOVING-MAN>



Peace & Love

As stated, besides my friends, and along with personal and professional life experiences, my loving, supportive family is a regular form of inspiration. Life is often full of tedious tasks, but it is much easier to shoulder those tasks when I know it will make the people I love happy or comfortable. Appreciation, gratitude, as well as encouragement can serve as fuel to keep my fire burning when the going is difficult.

<https://cimages.me/content/INSPIRATION>

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How would you describe the neighborhood where you grew up?



It may sound a little too elitist but the fact of the matter is that my grandfather owned the entire neighborhood.

El Bosque de La Habana was a vast wooded jungle-like area, which has now been rebranded as Habana Botanical Gardens. The majority of the families living at the top of the hill were family members, my grandparents sons, and daughters.

The hilltop is reportedly off-limits as our family members' homes are now assorted international embassies. The Gardens now house over 1000 acres of trees and plants. El Jardin Botanico Nacional is a must for all plant lovers. Most will be impressed by the varied collection of succulents and the extensive collection of palms and other trees. A full day can be had here, as there is a wonderful restaurant to enjoy a meal. Put it on your list when visiting, especially if you get tired of walking around Havana.

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You can enjoy the plant and tree specimens, and rest your legs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3PnGcLD_xw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_gd5wwddeg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ijJ9ty4IsE>

How did you learn to ride a bicycle?



Riding my bike

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

Come to think of it, I recall learning how to ride a mare or a filly before I rode a bike. A mare is an adult female horse or equine over three, and a filly is three and younger.

It's used for other female equine animals, particularly mules and zebras, but a female donkey is usually called a "jenny." A broodmare is used for breeding.

In any case, her name was Cuca and she was a gift from my grandpa, my mother's father Oscar Bonachea, when I was five.

CuKa was now my favorite because had just I lost my dog, who a careless driver ran over. However, my heart was broken again when we left Cuba and Cuka was not allowed on the plane.

Wonderful memories of teaching my daughters how to ride a bike are so sweet. Then, with a promotion and a new employer, I bought brand new bikes that waited for them in Sherman Oaks.

Then, we took a train ride south to Capistrano and leased a place in Mission Viejo, California near my Laguna Beach newsroom. These amazing young ladies learned all about Apple MAC computers, then Earthlink... Now they're successful executives. And so it goes.



CUKA

What a beautifully nostalgic journey you've allowed me to ride. It's amazing how six decades of memories of Cuka in Cuba, can intertwine with the important milestones in my life—both joyful and heart-wrenching. Cuka was not just a companion but a significant part of my childhood, a source of comfort after losing my dog Buzzy, and a symbol of those early formative years. That loss, especially when leaving Habana was deeply emotional. My horse and I had a special bond it was difficult to leave her behind.



LOVE THEM BOTH

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

The way I feel about my daughters also speaks volumes of the love and care I enjoyed putting into their upbringing. The memories of teaching Natasha and Sabrina to ride bikes, and setting them up with knowledge experimenting with the Apple Mac that led to opportunities at EarthLink in a new place—it all paints a picture of a life full of intention, hard work, and an inspiring commitment to family. It's increasingly powerful and fulfilling to see and know how my beautiful babies have developed into marvelous mothers at home and highly successful business executives. I hope they carry those early creativity lessons of resilience and adaptability and pass them on to my grandkids. There's something timeless about the cycle of life: From teaching Natasha and Sabrina to riding bikes to helping them navigate new technologies, a little like my own journey. It brings me immense pride to look back and see all that's unfolded since those early Cuban days. These are moments that stand out to me. Something that I'll always cherish and hold close, no matter how many years go by... And so it goes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrKxxRFytio>

What is one of the most expensive things that you've ever bought?



The most expensive investments I have ever made were personal and family shelter. Our new house and home. I bought them in Florida, New Jersey, California, and New York, with perhaps one final purchase expected before I check out.

I bought three homes in Florida, New Jersey, and California with Maria Elena, who was my first but not last wife. She was my first love and as teenagers, we got along fine, later in life, she developed a desire to spend money frivolously on things like marble floors. It was our money she wasted, plus the amount of alcohol consumption made her increasingly belligerent.

Luckily, I was assigned and transferred to NY but she stayed in California and I was later recruited by POTUS for another media management position with the federal government in

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Washington DC. That one triggered our estrangement. Once the administration changed political parties I was out of a job.

Penniless, I moved back to Miami and decided to end our 18-year marriage.

During our divorce, I asked the court to turn over the ownership of the property to my ex, so she could sell it and share the profits with my daughters. Instead, she decided to stay there until she lost the house during foreclosure proceedings.

During a recent trip to Southern California. I visited the current owners, who told me they had attempted to purchase our house from my ex and made offers but failed.

When I was hired to build News 12 The Bronx I bought a condo in City Island - A slice of NYC Paradise. However, when dealing with these types of condo management companies, all I could honestly say is stay the hell away. https://www.yelp.com/biz/h-s-c-management-mt-vernon-2?osq=HSC+Property+Management+Company&override_cta=Get+a+quote

We are now waiting for Bronx Housing Court, to enforce their order but the condo board enjoys paying fines. but I don't.

Nonetheless, the most costly time investment I have bought into could become this book. I may wind up being shunned by some and banned in several states, cities, and countries as long as I continue telling it like it is because the truth can be hurtful.

What is the farthest you have ever traveled from home?



Although I have traveled throughout America, including many states, most notably Arkansas, where I met my first father-in-law in Fort Chafee, where he was being held there upon his arrival in the US during the Mariel boatlift. I have also traveled Northward into Canada, and south of the border on assignment to Central America, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and further on to South America, including ancient places like Peru and Quito Ecuador, where I met the most volatile woman I ever did meet. The AP paid for my visits to their London and Paris Bureaus.

The furthest I have traveled was 15 hours inside an airplane and I wound up in Asia, where I visited Japan and the People's Republic of China. While in Japan, I visited the Associated Press

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Bureau in Tokyo and attended a Kabuki theatrical experience art form rich in showmanship. It involves elaborately designed costumes, eye-catching make-up, outlandish wigs, and arguably most importantly, the exaggerated actions performed by the male actors, some of which are dressed as women. I also traveled to the Port of Yokohama, and entered the Buhda in Kamakura, all courtesy of TV Tokyo's N Yamamoto. Arigato Gozaimas.

However, the journey to PRC China was life-changing because it was to ask my future in-laws if I could marry their youngest daughter Yirong. After I think they said of course and sure. my fiancée took me to Hangzhou Known as a “paradise on earth” ” the city of gardens, lakes, and temples, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of West Lake, where we enjoyed a celebratory meal.

On another personal note, when I met my future mother-in-law I decided to hug her and was startled because it is not common practice in Asia, like it is in America. I then had to meet my future father-in-law at the Shanghai Academy of Music, where he served as a distinguished Chair and professor.

My now wife and then fiancée told me he would meet me at the Rotunda. I was surprised to see a man riding a bike with a cello strapped on his back approaching me. He appeared to quickly accept me. Perhaps because I did not try to kiss him.

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While there, the AP Bureau Chief arranged my visit to a prestigious Tongji University, where I was politely told that despite my amazing credentials, I was too old for a professional educator visa. Years earlier, while teaching at Cal State Northridge, I was offered a job at Tsinghua University, in Beijing but turned it down... And so it goes.

I think the best method of traveling is on the company's dime, where I can dine and lodge at several fancy places.

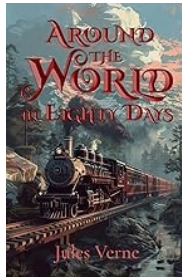
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What were your favorite books or stories when you were a child?



Since three is my number, as I am the third and final son my parents had, the number 3 has followed me throughout my life. Here are my three toppers to share with thee... And so it goes.

Gulliver's Travels - While it can be considered a fantastical adventure novel or a children's book, Gulliver's Travels is a complex political satire. They were published on October 28, 1726, by Jonathan Swift. It was intended as a parody of travel narratives. It also depicts prominent political figures and parties of the time, questions morality and the concept of individuality, and examines the ideal society. The Irish writer is regarded as one of the most talented literary satirists. was also a member of the clergy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rehNT9wIjUg>



Another was Around the World in Eighty Days: The Classic Edition including Original Illustrations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxFY4Pck3Ew>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zYfAvQonyo>

Robinson Crusoe - It was written by Daniel Defoe and published in 1719. He probably based Robinson Crusoe on a real guy named Alexander Selkirk, who was a Scottish castaway.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaHGZVVG9xg>

Try one you'll like it.

Do you believe in magic? What is a magical experience for you?



YES, Magic. Luck, Fate, or Serendipity. They differ in meaning in important ways. The former is defined as finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for. While fate likewise may be concerned with something that happens to us, it need not be pleasant. Among the meanings of fate are an inevitable and often adverse outcome, condition, or end, outcome, and the circumstances that affect us.

My entire life has been magical from my youth in Cuba to coming of age in the US, going to school, and learning how to communicate in a second language. Being married and enjoying great kids and grandkids. It's a magically blessed experience.

What is the difference between fate and luck? There is considerable similarity between luck and fate, but there are also

settings in which one word might be more apt than the other. Serendipity has a fairly narrow meaning, one that is concerned with finding pleasing things that one had not been looking for, while luck has a somewhat broader range with meanings such as a force that brings good fortune or adversity, success, and the events or circumstances that operate for or against an individual. One might easily be said to have bad luck, which one would not say of serendipity.

My late mother liked to live for the day. My dad was a planner. I do believe in magic and that everything happens for a reason. When I was a lot younger, this song was popular.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgYCGMXkE5Q>

An old friend and colleague recorded the following tune.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEKNcVOPdQo>

It is magic that I am still alive, considering all that has happened throughout my lifetime. Reporting on the civil war in El Salvador, the war between Peru and Ecuador, and 9/11 just to name a few.

The Magic of Celebrating Christmas Around the World
Create a Holiday Countdown Calendar That Lasts All Year
The Art of Writing Greeting Cards: Maintaining Connections
Exploring the Healing Power of Sound During all Seasons.
<https://www.doseofnews.com/#DONews>

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<https://doseoffeeds.net> #DOFeeds

Also on the pleasant side, meeting my wives was a magical experience as well as having beautiful children and grandkids.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXTjpY_Hdko

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What are some of your favorite family traditions?



I enjoyed camping in the wilderness and traveling with my wife and daughters, Natasha and Sabrina. On Christmas mornings, I watched them in delight as they opened the presents Santa Claus left during the night.

Around the holidays, I recall a happier time with Christmas morning surprises before my family uprooted to begin a new life in America, the land of the free and home of the brave. But now I realize the developed world enjoys universal healthcare, free education, and more paid vacation time than Americans receive.

Although my daughters were born in Miami, a professional media career kept me working in NY, CA, and elsewhere.

I miss being away from LA, where I brought my wife Elenita and daughters. Also, not always there to enjoy more of the grandkids, Elena, Chloe, Sophia, Parker, and Olivia's growths.

Looking back the advice to them and anyone willing to listen.

Most folks feel the pressure to achieve wealth, status, and success but, it is about knowing your family is healthy, happy, comfortable, and self-sufficient.

Meaningful Relationships: Building and maintaining close, supportive relationships with family, friends, and community members is perhaps the most consistent predictor of happiness and longevity. These connections provide emotional support, foster a sense of purpose, and buffer against stress.

Resilience and Positive Mindset: Maintaining a positive outlook in the face of life's challenges is crucial. A resilient mindset can help people navigate setbacks, cope with adversity, and maintain mental well-being. Optimism and emotional regulation have been linked to better health and longer life.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices: Regular physical activity, a balanced diet, adequate sleep, and avoiding harmful behaviors like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are all essential for maintaining both physical and mental health as we age. Also being actively involved in a community—whether through work, volunteerism, or social activities—can provide a sense of belonging, purpose, and fulfillment. Engagement can reduce loneliness and provide a greater connection to our world. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BY_dv-__k_8&list=RD2BY_dv-__k_8&start_radio=1

And so it goes.

What are your favorite musicians, bands or albums?



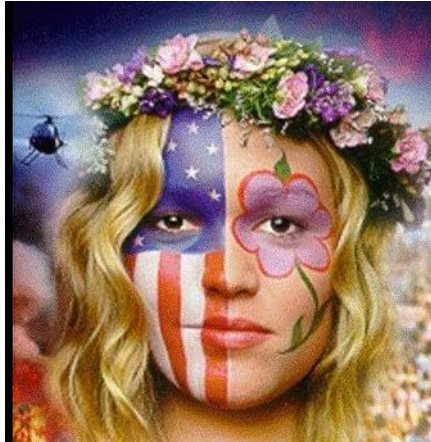
How much time do you have? Please remember that I was a DJ at WVUM and WPSC in college. My list is long and focused on rock groups whose musical work remains timeless over the years and is still relevant within the industry.

If we had kept the money that my girlfriend, then first wife and mother of my wonderful women, spent on going to see most of these concerts and invested we could be wealthy by now. In rock music bands alone

The Beatles, BeeGees, Beach Boys, Blood Sweat and Tears, Cream, CSNY, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Eagles, The E Street Band, Genesis, Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, Doors, Jethro Tull, Led Zeppelin, Police, Santana, The Supremes, Pink Floyd, Steely Dan, The Rolling Stones, Steve Miller Band, Sly and the Family

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Stone, Yes, and The Who and last but not least, NSYNC.
Each contributed uniquely to the rock genre.



These bands have remained relevant throughout their active years and beyond. This is in the form of new generations sharing the same monumental praise and sense of awe of a particular band, or it could be seen in a modern act channeling one of these legendary bands through their music. The rock bands listed above have created timeless art and should be considered the best in the genre. Then there are classic music, R&B, and jazz left to list. This is why I asked how much information you wish me to share. Music makes me happy and it is known to help soothe stress, anxiety, and our soul. Folks continue turning to music as a refuge to cope, communicate, and create community.

What was your mom like when you were a child?



She was a supermom who worked as a teacher and a splendid mother to us. My two daughters, Natasha and Sabrina remind me very much of her in many ways. Great level-headed mothers. She was a beautiful mom and a human being who stressed positivity and always accepted the outcome, saying, “Todo lo que paseo conviene.” Everything happens for a reason. Parenting shapes our lives by nurturing love, values, and resilience, building the foundation for confident, compassionate, and capable individuals and human beings. Mi mama Margarita was able to juggle her professional responsibilities with her family. In fact, both my parents made difficult life choices but were done for the family’s good.

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MoM

Antonio J (de) Soto II Son of Antonio J Soto and Maria Polo married Margarita A. Bonachea y Grave de Peralta daughter of Oscar Bonachea and Caridad Grave de Peralta. We three are children Antonio J Soto III, Jorge A., and me Roberto F. E Soto.

When I was 8 years old my MoM Margarita, my architect-attorney DaD, and my two older brothers and I agreed to leave the island of Cuba where we were born and I finally settled on a much smaller island. Not just any island, I like to call it #CityIsland is A Slice of NYC Paradise. It is a gorgeous island in the shadows of the most famous islands in the world. They also call it Manhattan and The Big Apple.

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Based out of City Island, I built and launched a 24-hour news channel, then built and branded APTN Associated Press TV News, five years later I took early retirement with a buyout and ultimately began to teach journalism and publish my blog. #CityImages <https://cimages.me/>

Now as a parent, as I reflect, I wish I could go back in time in my life and fix what I did wrong but I wanted what I thought was best for my children. I'm sorry I wasn't a better father. I will love you always

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What were you like as a teenager?



Well, in high school, I started by joining the school newspaper. I was also head of the social committee. I was president of the senior class and was in charge of all the dances, concerts, and the battle of bands.

<https://cimages.me/content/SWINGING-SOURIE>

I joined a couple of bands throughout my high school and college years. Some of the musicians that I played with have gone on to bigger and better things.

<https://cimages.me/content/THE-SIXTIES>

Others went on to, professional nonmusical jobs. And so it varies, but, my high school years were very interesting to say the least. I may be able to download some of the music that we played in, those bands that I, referred to, and I'll be happy to share that with the public if they, find it interesting.

<https://cimages.me/content/SING>

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Some of the guys I played music with are gone, some have moved on, but none are forgotten.

<https://cimages.me/content/OLD-FRIENDS-23>

I graduated high school and went to college in South Florida.

<https://cimages.me/content/MOVING-MAN>

Do you consider yourself an extrovert or an introvert?



It has been stated that introverts are shy, and extroverts are outgoing. But it isn't that easy.

They are part of the “Big Five”. Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. I'm a bit of each.



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I can be high or low on any particular trait, so I fall somewhere in the middle as a Libra and a Tiger. I enjoy working in a group. Extroverted people tend to feel most comfortable with others, whether the task is a large project, or planning an organization.

As the leader, I enjoy organizing and keeping projects running smoothly. I feel energized when we're doing our best work, which always involves active collaboration with others.

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NEWS 12 TO LAUNCH FIRST 24-HOUR ALL-NEWS CABLE NETWORK FOR THE BRONX

"NEWS 12 THE BRONX" TO OFFER AROUND-THE-CLOCK BOROUGH-WIDE NEWS COVERAGE

NEWS CHANNEL LATEST REGIONAL PROGRAMMING VENTURE UNDERTAKEN BY RAINBOW MEDIA HOLDINGS, INC.

Cablevision's Rainbow Media Holdings, Inc. today announced plans to launch the first 24-hour local news channel dedicated exclusively to the Bronx. The channel, *News 12 The Bronx*, will be available exclusively to Cablevision customers throughout the borough, beginning early spring.

News 12 The Bronx will offer unparalleled coverage of news, events and issues affecting the Bronx and its diverse communities. The channel, an alternative to New York City-based broadcast and cable news programming, will offer viewers in-depth reporting on the Bronx. News Director **Roberto F.E. Soto**, a 20-year veteran of television news, will oversee all operations.

"The launch of *News 12 The Bronx* underscores Cablevision's long-standing commitment to develop and deliver high-quality local programming to our customers," said **James L. Dolan**, chief executive officer of **Cablevision Systems Corporation**.

"We anticipate that residents of this historic and culturally diverse borough will come to depend on *News 12 The Bronx* for the kind of news and information that most impacts their lives."

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

My career successes include Senior Producer at NBC's The Source, Executive Producer for SIN's Univision, News Director at HBC's Telemundo, Division Chief for USIA's Marti Media, Station Manager at Cablevision's News 12, and Bureau Chief for Associated Press' APTN, to name a few. This could have been somewhat difficult for many introverts.

My magical powers may also have helped organize NBC The Source and NBC News Overnight Drive into the awards category.

Then, Univision recruited me and asked me to help them rebrand their old SIN label into the news powerhouse we created for Spanish-language TV.

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UNIVISION Press Release



UNIVISION - Spanish International Network

Contact: William Adler
Telephone: (212) 502-1350

For Immediate Release

NBC'S SOTO NAMED UNIVISION NEWS EXEC PRODUCER

For the past eight years, Soto has been a newswriter, editor and video-tape producer for a variety of NBC television news programs, including the NBC Nightly News, News Overnight, News at Sunrise and the Today Show. He has also worked as a field producer at WNBC-TV, Channel 4, in New York and as a news producer with the NBC Radio Network and The Source.

In a career that has spanned 17 years, Soto has worked for WFLC-TV in Miami as anchorman and producer. He served as Dade County News Bureau Chief for Miami news/talk format radio station WWSW-AM, and as a reporter at Miami's first all-news radio station WINZ. Earlier he worked at WYUM-FM in Coral Gables, FL.

Soto has an M.A. in Television from the William Paterson College School of Arts and Communication, Wayne, NJ and a B.A. from Florida International University.

And so it goes....

What was your wedding like?



This is a loaded question. Are you talking about my first, second, or third marriage? I say that because they were all very different. My first wedding was with Elenita, my high school sweetheart, at Japanese Gardens in Miami. She is thankfully the mother of our two daughters Natasha and Sabrina. Grandmother of five. Elena, Chloe, Sophia, Parker, and Olivia. The marriage lasted 18 years until our divorce, when I asked the court to turn over all my worldly possessions, including autos the title to our LA home after 18 years of marriage.

Number two was from Laura in Texas, along the US border. She was a conniving, Chichester who was looking for a US citizenship and talked me into marrying her, by tricking me into believing that she was pregnant when she wasn't. And that made me a fool. Divorced 18 months later.

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My third and last, Yirong at NYC's Trinity Church is most notably the one. We're happily in love and will always be forever and ever. So help us, God, or as the wedding vows say, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer. Although we've, kiddingly said, for better or for Worth? Over a decade so far, and so it goes.

<https://cimages.me/content/TEN-WONDERFUL-YEARS>

<https://vimeo.com/78030004>

<https://cimages.me/content/our-wedding-anniversary>

What were your friends like in high school?




Some were real friends, like Jack H, and Dennis T. who attended my last wedding. Jackie V, Johnny B, Tom M, Dennis T, and my Tocayo BoB O, who have also stayed in touch.

Jack and I enjoyed playing in a rock band, and Dennis and I went to see Donovan's concert three decades later. Jackie and Johnny went on double dates with my high school sweetheart, Elenita, and me. Tom was a good buddy who later became my roommate at Sun Tan U, aka the University of Miami. Bob was the school newspaper editor and helped me publish my first opinion post.

CUBA PASSPORT

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FOTOGRAFIAS		FILIACION:	
Titular—Bearer—Titulaire Esp—sa—Wife—Epouse		Personal description — Signalement	
		Nombre de los padres Parent's names — Nom des parents <u>Antonio</u> <u>Y Margarita</u>	
		Lugar de nacimiento Birthplace — Lieu de naissance <u>Cuba</u>	
		Fecha de nacimiento Date of birth. — Date de naissance. <u>Nov 12/1950</u>	
		Estado Status. — Etat civil.	
		Profesión Profession or occupation — Profession	
		Estatura Height — Taille	
		Color de la Piel Complexion — Teint	
		Color de los ojos Eye's color — Couleur des yeux	
		Color del cabello Hair color — Couleur des cheveux.	
		Barba Beard — Barbe	
		Señas particulares visibles Visible personal marks — Signes particuliers visibles.	
Hijos — Children — Enfants Este Pasaporte es válido por cinco años a contar desde la fecha de su expedición. This passport is valid for five years counting from its date. — Ce passeport est valable pour cinq ans à partir de la date de son émission.		Firma del titular Bearer's name — Signature <u>Roberto Soto S. Sandoval</u>	

I joined a local choir and sang Messiah an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel. The text was compiled from the King James Bible and the Structure of Handel's Messiah. This is my image in the middle while singing live on PBS Television. I learned in high school that my parents sacrificed much by leaving Cuba's communist government and starting over in America.

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Decades later, I was faced with the decision to start over while working at NBC News during what turned out to be a long labor union strike, which led me to move my family to California for jobs with Univision, Telemundo, OCN, then I was offered my first academic opportunity at Cal State. These and other educational and training experiences were key to my presidential appointment at USIA WorldNet, in Washington DC.

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What is one of your favorite memories of your mother?



My mom Margarita was a loving mother, a professional educator, and a positive role model.

She did not smoke and would rarely drink any alcohol.

She taught me how to survive. She gave up everything for the family

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Margarita was kind and always took her time to think things over. My dad used to say that he was yesterday and she was tomorrow.

My mother and Caridad, her mother, and my Grandmother always often said PERSEVERE. It is the only way to get there. Little did they know their baby boy would become a diplomat.



Later in life, it's become more difficult to continue to persevere.

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Age rejection, health, unemployed, because employers don't believe that crap about age is just a number, it is human to be rejected, and old. Also, the financial hocus pocus.

However, the best advice I can give is that it's wrong to point fingers or assign blame. It does not make us responsible. We always must persevere because life continues.

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What is the best job you've ever had?



Being a DaD is the greatest honor of my lifetime. Natasha and Sabrina, who were both born in Miami, and my grandkids, born in Los Angeles, are the best blessings in my entire lifetime.

I regret that my crazy career and a divorce got in the way. However, I have two beautiful daughters and a son, with five fabulous grandkids, including intelligent and gorgeous granddaughters and a handsome grandson. I am blessed and have had many wonderful professional opportunities that would not have been readily available if not for my advanced graduate degrees and my being a multilingual media maestro.

From my time at the Washington Post and Newsweek-owned WPLG to Miami Newsradio, NBC News, Univision, Telemundo, AP, and my federal government appointment at USIA-TV. I can not talk about it other than to share this picture of my kids, who

were guests at the Democratic National Convention in NYC.



Being a father is a huge responsibility. My media posts provided a comfortable lifestyle, and when I was recruited by POTUS, I moved to DC and decided to file for divorce once my daughters became adults. Their mother was an alcoholic, like others in her

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family, and abusive to my family and me. I asked the court to turn over all my worldly belongings, including our house and cars, so she could sell them and move to a smaller rental. She should have. could have and if she would have tried the story may have had a better outcome. Maria did not and tried to paint me as the scapegoat by making it difficult for me to speak with them or send the money that may be diverted to wine consumption. I sent the court records to my daughters...
And so it goes.

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How do you get your news? What news interests you?



As a senior #GAP general assignment producer, all news interests me. I trust my old employers' newsgathering practices.

The most demanding positions were working for the USIA federal government foreign policy media and the AP.

One represents America in the information war against Cuba.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4gxMSEUkV4>

The other, Associated Press is writing the first draft of history.

I trust the supermarket of news, as my mother called the AP. You see, a long time ago here in NYC... I was hired by the world's oldest non-profit news cooperative and initially she got confused thinking it may have been at The A&P Supermarket.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WllioQ_RhPY&t=175s

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The greatest danger at NBC was when I was sent to places I wouldn't consider going on vacation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_CvH_uWhhc

<https://cimages.me/content/POST-NEWSWEEK>

<https://cimages.me/content/nbc>

<https://cimages.me/content/ap>

<https://breaking.doseofnews.com/>

How is life different today compared to when you were a child?



Things are much different today. I agree with those who say it. There have been many changes. When I go in public, I hear young people cursing, and more adults seem to say it loud enough to hear them more. They appear to be overtly frustrated in many ways. Politically, we went from Camelot to The shining city upon a hill to Swallowing an orange poison pill.



Culturally, why must every generation think their folks are square? And no matter where their heads are at, they know DaD's not there. Do they say "Can I go ride my electric bike?

It goes 33 miles per hour and I steer it with my knee.

And can I put a droplet of this new stuff on my tongue, then imagine fighting dragons while you sit and wreck our lungs?

We must be permissive, understanding of the younger generation.

Hey GB, my friends have videophones and want to see me.

What's the matter grandpa, how come you're turning green? Can it be that we can't live up to our greatest dreams?

Also, children used to respect their parents. They regularly reached out for advice or to say hello. Here is a song I heard when interviewing Luther on his first Radio City performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Wcb9SkW7I>

It is a place my parents took me and I also took my daughters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6KsAQmaCEw>

Throughout my life, I have done much and worn many hats, With startups, turnarounds, commercial, government, nonprofits, and digital platforms. I trained generations in digital storytellers. As a multilingual communicator who enjoys a network of successful professionals. As a scholar, and senior executive specializing in multilingual media. My career spanned decades, with thousands of news and information stories in various languages. As a Latino digital expert, and a seasoned strategist, I helped most to become better communicators and reflect the community we serve, to improve policies.

Improving relationships with my kids, it's a work in progress with love, effort, and sharing facts. Besides being a father and GB grandpa Bob, there's no mission greater than having a role in a democratic society. I was a key contributor to successful brands at Washington Post-Newsweek, NBC, Univision, Telemundo, AP, and others. I've embraced diversity, cultures, and an interest in digital media, which keeps me motivated.

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<https://cimages.me/content/el-barbaro-del-medio>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MxencSfpTc&feature=g-upl>

<https://youtu.be/Cpprf3XKPtM> <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/search.jsp?queryoption=HEADER&queryBy=teacherName&schoolName=&schoolID=&query=roberto+soto%5C>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberto_FE_Soto <http://cimages.me/sites/default/files/media/hear-and-now-and-second-sunday.mp3>

<https://video.newshooks.com/?cat=35-documentary&order=rating&type=video&m-b=&m-g=&m-q=&w=1870>

<https://vimeo.com/user17408233>

<https://connect.prsa.org/network/members/profile/speaker>

<https://connect.prsa.org/network/members/profile/speaker>

As a minority in media, I had to work better and longer hours, whether in print, radio, television, online, and real-time mass media, with a broad range of experiences as a reporter, anchor, writer, editor, and producer. As a senior executive and multilingual communicator developing news, sports, entertainment, finance, politics, and public affairs platforms, I have created graphics, launched media startups, designed turnarounds, and directed strategic planning, managed projects, budgets, and operations.

Now DEI are considered ugly letters and hiring us is even more difficult. Add to that my advanced age and it is staggering.

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As I look back, the best times were shared with my children and grandkids., I realize that I didn't do everything correctly, but I wound up blessed with perfect daughters and grandkids.

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

What is one of your favorite memories of your father?



Antonio J Soto II adored my mother, loved watching baseball, and enjoyed listening to jazz. He was strict just like my grandfather who was a Spanish Gallego. His great-grandson AJ Soto V, is now a baseball wiz kid with a bright future in America's pastime.

One of the many memories was when I got press passes in the mid-90s for a St Luis Cardinals vs Miami Marlins #MLB game.

He was in his element during a news conference while reporters were asking the players questions and he asked Rene Arocha about leaving Cuba. Arocha is a legendary Cuban baseball player who was the first from his country to defect and join the Major Leagues, making his debut with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1993.

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No. 43 Picher had a career that began with a flash of hope but ultimately fizzled in disappointments and unfulfilled expectations. “I am hidden here,” he said, laughing, of the nondescript peach bungalow-style house here where he lives, with a beaten-up 1990s sedan on the lawn, a motorboat in the side yard, squawking parrots on the back patio and a pregnant cat making the rounds.

With one simple but rebellious move, Rene changed baseball. In 1991, during an international competition, Arocha defected, opting for a life in the USA and playing in the Major Leagues.

His story became known across the States when Spanish-language media began talking about him, and Arocha was the subject of many reports on Univision and Telemundo.

Hours later I began receiving calls from friends in different parts of the country after watching my dad’s interview on CNN.

Arocha started the wave of players defecting and deciding to come to the U.S. and stay in America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdOtOZbIFvU>

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Soto Mottos



I've worked as a journalist for the Washington Post-Newsweek, USIA/VOA, the AP, NBC, Univision, and Telemundo, launching services and turning programs around. It's not where we work, but who we labor with.

I live by inhaling courage, confidence, personal power, and compassion, breathing out fear, tension, anxiety, and stress.

What did I breathe in today? What do I need to let go of right now? How does this support me through the moment?

Like everyone, trust a few, and do nothing wrong to anyone.

Who in my life do I deeply trust? Show kindness in difficult moments. Where can I be more open-hearted?

My life is here and now, and I keep my attention in the present.

What brought me into the present today? When did I notice my mind drifting away from now?

Life is difficult without all the people I care about being near me.

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Who makes life meaningful to me? How can I show my love?

I choose to live every day like it's the last day.

What do I do differently today if it is my last? What matters?

Every day is a chance to start my life over.

What to release from yesterday? What do I want to create today?

I live my life on my terms. Am I compromising too much?

The meaning of my life is what I make it.

What gives my life meaning today? Am I living in alignment with what I value most?

Celebrate the small wins. Every day matters.

Which win did I experience today? How do I celebrate it?

Mistakes are learning opportunities; don't let any go to waste.

What mistake taught me something? How do I grow from it?

I live by breathing in courage, confidence, personal power, compassion, and exhaling fear, tension, anxiety, and stress. I like everyone, trust a few, and do no wrong to anyone.

My life is right now, and I keep my attention in the present moment. Life is nothing without the people I care about.

I choose to live every day like it's my last day. Every new day is a chance to start my life over. I live my life on my terms. The meaning of my life is what I make it. Celebrate the small wins. Each win matters. Mistakes are learning opportunities; don't let any go to waste. I choose my battles; some are more worth fighting than others. Turn obstacles into opportunities. Find

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

ways to step out of your comfort zone. Focus on excitement rather than fear. I never lose. I win or learn.

I love my body. It's gotten me this far. I treat it well and don't look to others for validation; I find it within myself. I already have what it takes. I make time for others in life every day.

I learn what I can from others. Their experiences can teach me something. I show the same compassion to everyone. I surround myself with people who see the best and return the favor. Behind anyone's irritating behavior is a human being.

Always be kind. Disappointment is an opportunity to practice patience, gratitude, and flexibility. Living in harmony with others involves compromise.

Empathy helps. Compassion is never wasted, even when it's not reciprocated. I am more than our mistakes. I surround myself with people who see that. I'm the kind of listener I wish everyone were. A life spent helping others is a life filled with purpose. I am a work in progress. I cannot save other people. But offer respect and consideration, just like my folks taught me.

My father lived until his mid-70s, my mother till her mid-80s. My wife wants me to stay healthy past my mid-90s. Time waits for no one.

“MY LIFE”

SOTO LIFE ROBERTO F E SOTO

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/aa6f5a84-98c0-49bc-b76d-dc7f022790f2/audio>



And so it goes...

LEMAS DE SOTO

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?



Near my kids and grandchildren, but I never want to be a burden to them. Once I moved away from LA, I was unable to return to stay while working there, although I continue to try.

Meanwhile, I was delighted to finally be with my oldest and youngest in NYC together in 2025. This is one of my favorite images of my lifetime.

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My Oldest and youngest, Elena and Olivia

Leaving a mark for my family, I must tell my story, the real deal.

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Not that I was unsuccessful in my career. I achieved professional gigs on the East Coast. NY, DC, Georgia, and Florida.

I played a pioneering role as one of the first Latino content producers in both English and Spanish-language primetime TV. It emphasizes experience across major networks, covering critical global events, and collaboration with renowned broadcasters. <https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/e9b67951-7e24-4382-bbeb-eeed29ddec49/audio> [1]

I am a communicator and educator who integrates traditional journalistic values with modern digital media practices. My work is impactful, inspiring, and a testament to diverse narratives in the news industry while maintaining my distinct voice. I educate students and train future media professionals while working on start-up and turn-around commercial, educational, governmental, and non-profit projects.

As a multilingual media strategist and a seasoned professor and educator, I merge journalistic integrity with modern digital storytelling. My expertise also includes marketing, branding, and cross-cultural communication. I bring public relations and content creation into focus for today's multi-platform world. These skills and areas of knowledge are highly relevant for training future media professionals.

<https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/search/professors?q=roberto%20soto> [2]

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My career path includes network news, featuring primetime English and Spanish-language broadcasts, while working with major organizations such as The Washington Post-Newsweek, NBC, BBC, Univision, Telemundo, and AP. His background indicates a wide range of experience across media environments. My involvement in specific “start-up and turn-around commercial, educational, governmental, and non-profit projects” includes NBC, Univision, Telemundo, USIA-TV, TeleArtes, Cablevision, and Associated Press.

As a visionary, a media strategist, and someone who helped shape the voices of major networks, I offer the capability to work on diverse initiatives and projects within the media landscape. I am a visionary leader dedicated to impactful and inclusive communication.

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/07786226-77c9-4d2d-a76d-79e5de409e5b/audio> [3]

<https://cimages.me/content/el-barbaro-del-medio> [4]

