



*From the Office of Certified Genealogist & Researcher*

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**The Lineage of Mark (aka Frank Edward Milton) Acuña**

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***Introduction/Executive Summary***

In order to protect the tribe’s right to authenticate its own history and to fully participate in repatriation issues, Chairman Andrew Salas, of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation, asked me to verify what he and his family claimed – that Mark F. Acuña is not a Gabrieleno Indian. Therefore, I conducted this genealogical investigation and have determined Acuña is not of Gabrieleno or any other California Indian descent; rather he is of Mexican-born and Caucasian descent. This report includes my findings.

Based on public statements, Acuña obviously believes he is a Gabrieleno Indian through his paternal lineage, and there is no indication he questioned his ancestor’s identity. Had he done so, he would have learned his paternal ancestors were actually descendants of Mexican-born citizens. At this point, it is unknown if he knowingly deceived those agencies and individuals who take him at his word or if he is simply too naïve and/or negligent in his responsibility to verify his claims. To be clear, this report does not address his motives but it does address the facts, which will inevitably have consequences. Therefore, in the greater interest of protecting tribal rights, I have requested Chairman Salas to deliver a copy of this report to Acuña before it is placed in the public domain. Furthermore, upon learning the truth of his ancestry, it is my hope Acuña will cooperate with the Gabrieleno Tribe to rectify any damage or harm caused by his error.

***The Public Claims by Mark F. Acuna***

Acuña’s activities confirmed he publically represents himself as a *Gabrieleno* Indian as demonstrated by data found on various Internet websites:

- “***Mark Acuña was born on April 6, 1938*** in Los Angeles and raised in San Gabriel by his grandparents four blocks from the San Gabriel Mission and two blocks from the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribal Council Center... His current affiliations include: ***California Indian Affiliation: Gabrieleno-Tongva descendant*** and member of the Gabrieleno-Tongva Tribal Council ...”<sup>1</sup> [bold emphasis added by author]

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Acuna\\_Marc\\_176663357.aspx](http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Acuna_Marc_176663357.aspx).