



Going the Distance with Pride and Spirit

*After surviving a devastating fire, Division Laundry
is thriving due to determination, expansion, and
client and equipment longevity*

LAVATEC

Laundry Technology Inc.



Representatives of the senior management team at Division Laundry & Cleaners are, from left to right: Theresa Garcia; Patrick Garcia, Jr.; Patrick Garcia, Sr.; Patricia Luna; and Adam Luna.

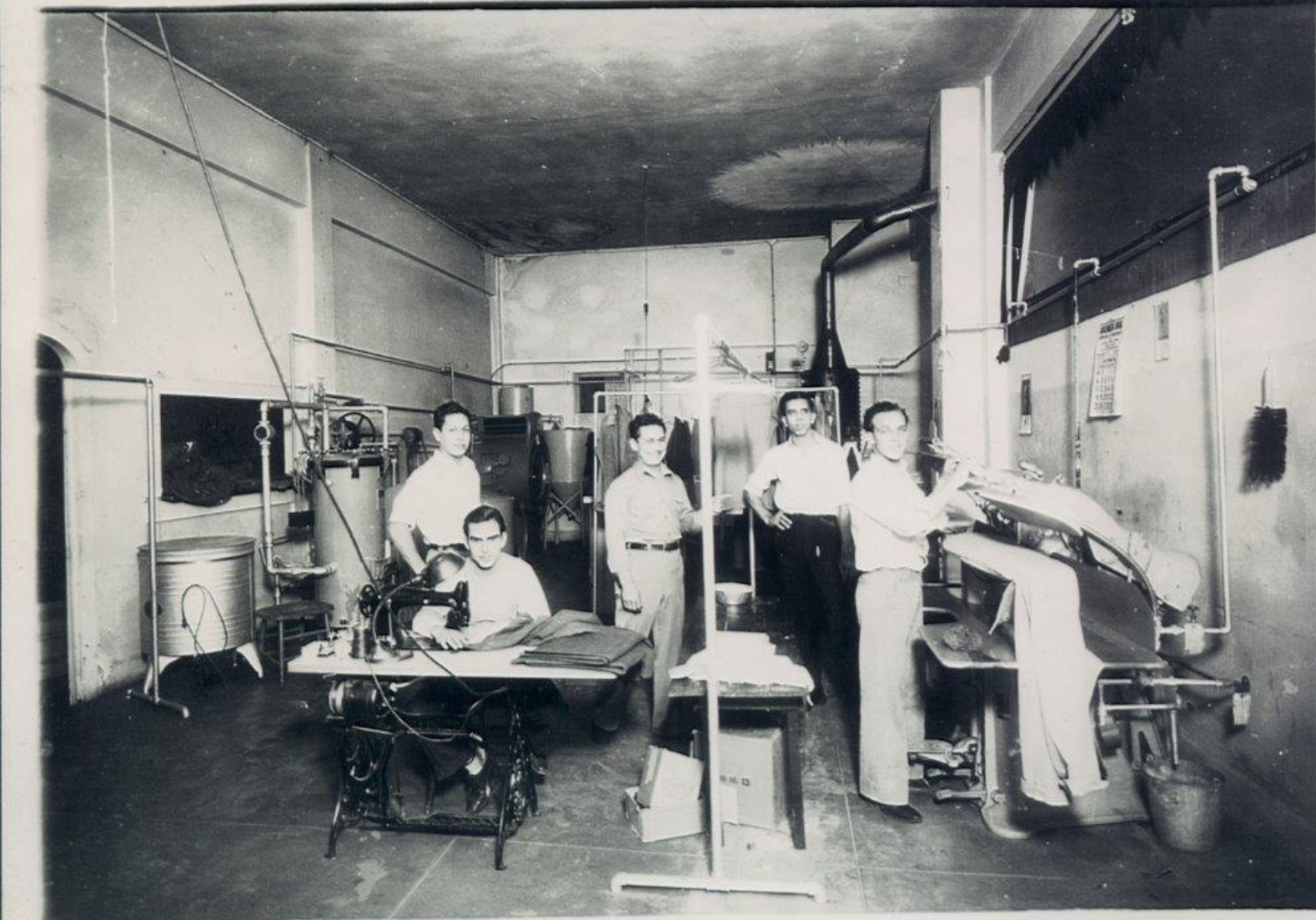
July 2026 – June 25 will forever be remembered by Patrick and Theresa Garcia and other leadership members at Division Laundry & Cleaners in San Antonio, Texas. The family owned business recently marked the 25th anniversary of the catastrophic fire in 2001 that destroyed the company’s facility, but didn’t kill the business.

Two-thirds of Division’s clients left after the fire, but the other third remained committed despite the work being outsourced to other plants throughout Texas. Their faith was rewarded two years later when a sprawling new 50,000 square-foot facility was built across the street from Lackland Air Force Base on San Antonio’s west side.



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Patrick Garcia, President and CEO of Division Laundry & Cleaners



In the early days, Division's tailors repaired worn material before laundering uniforms for the military bases they did work for.

Some equipment running today actually pre-dates the new facility, including a 31-year-old LAVATEC tunnel washer system that is the centerpiece of a water conservation program saving over 15 million gallons annually. Other equipment, such as a majority of Division's fleet of 46 box trucks, tractors, and trailers, are emblazoned with a phoenix logo. The mythical bird symbolizes the successful rise from the ashes of that fateful day.

"That fire changed us, and June 25 is always with us. It's a reminder of what we overcame and a source of motivation to face whatever comes our way," remarked Patrick Garcia Sr., Division's president and CEO since 2010. "It tested us in ways I would not wish on anyone. But it also shaped who we are and what we stand for as a company, which is exactly why the phoenix logo means so much to us."

A Family Tradition Building for Future Generations

The acquisition of laundry properties in Dallas and Houston in 2022, combined with opening a facility in Oklahoma, has helped the company expand the past four years. It's a very different world since Division Laundry & Cleaners opened for business in 1939.

Military contracts accounted for a good portion of its business in the early years. Founder Peter Garcia began by laundering uniforms for the troops at Fort Sam Houston, and named the company after the 2nd Infantry Division at the post.

His commitment to quality service helped establish a foothold with clients that rings true today. As the state's population has soared through the decades, many industries have flourished. The healthcare and hospitality markets sparked growth in the commercial laundry business, and Division has taken advantage of the opportunity to strengthen their relationships over the years.

"We are proud to say that some of our customer relationships go back nearly 54 years," said Garcia, who has been actively involved in the community and currently serves on the board of the San Antonio Manufacturers Association. Next March will mark his 55th anniversary working at Division.

"Long-term relationships are something we value deeply. We don't simply view these as customer accounts, but as true partnerships. We genuinely enjoy working with the people and organizations we serve, and believe that commitment shows in the loyalty we have built over the decades."



Division Laundry in San Antonio has added an assortment of LAVATEC equipment since buying their first continuous tunnel wash system in 1995 that is still in operation today.

That loyalty to customers, which includes hotel properties in San Antonio ranging from 250 to 1,000 rooms, was learned early in his career.

“Over the years I have worn just about every hat imaginable. I ran payroll and handled accounting while attending college and working 50 hours a week,” says Mr. Garcia, who later completed his undergraduate and master’s degree in economics. “Looking back, there is not a part of the business I have not touched, and I believe that is exactly what has prepared me to lead it.”

It required a family effort for the company to survive the fire and to accomplish what it has since. Son Patrick Garcia is the CFO, daughter Patricia and son-in-law Adam Luna are the COA and Director of Purchasing, respectively, and daughter Theresa Garcia is the COO.

“Beyond healthcare and hospitality, we also serve customers in the medical apparel, dust control, mats, and food and beverage markets. This range of services allow us to be a one-stop provider for our customers, meaning they can rely on us for multiple needs rather than managing relationships with several different vendors,” says Theresa Garcia.

She took a different path than her father and had other career choices in mind after graduating from college in 2010. But after starting as an administrative assistant before moving into operations where she worked closely with the plant manager in San Antonio, she learned the customer service and fleet management side of the business before taking on company operations responsibilities. She became COO after the Dallas and Houston acquisitions in 2022.

“We work closely with them whenever we need assistance or help with troubleshooting, and we collaborate with them to make sure we have all the necessary parts in stock to keep our equipment maintained and running.”

Theresa Garcia, COO of Division Laundry & Cleaners

“Quality service,” she says, “absolutely remains a cornerstone of our business. Whether we are serving a hospital, a hotel, or any other type of customer, our commitment to consistent, reliable, high quality results does not change, regardless of the market segment or the facility handling the work.”

A Respected Pillar of the Community

She oversees an operation that now employs 320 people where each facility runs five days a week. San Antonio is the hub, producing work over two shifts while Dallas, Houston, and Muskogee run one shift each. Together, the four facilities keep a steady and growing volume of linen moving through their operation each year.



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Division was one of the community's oldest and most respected institutions before it was honored with the 2018 San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Family Business of the Year award. More tributes have followed in recent years.

In 2023, the company was recognized with a Minority Legacy Firm award. The next year, Patrick Garcia received a Lifetime Achievement award from the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Last year, Division was named inclusive Employer of the Year by the Workforce Inclusion Network in San Antonio, and was inducted as a charter member into the LAVATEC Hall of Fame, which recognizes exceptional laundry industry companies and individuals.

“Community involvement is something I am proud that our leadership team is actively engaged in,” said Patrick Garcia. “As a company, Division also participates each holiday season in the Communities in School Holiday Pledge. This program helps provide meals to families experiencing financial hardship through our local community schools, and it is one of the ways we give back to a community that has supported us over the years.”

Award-winning program has saved over 500 million gallons of water

When the population increased from 27 million in 2016 to nearly 32 million in 2025, Texas became the fastest growing state and is second only to California. Coupled with the region being among the world's largest agricultural producers, water availability is always a concern.

Division management began taking steps in their water conservation efforts in the 1990s and have won numerous awards. In 1995, Division installed a LAVATEC continuous tunnel washer (CTW) with 110-pound capacity that began paying immediate dividends and continues to run both shifts. It required less water usage and also provided them with additional labor and utility savings.

The 31-year-old system has since been joined by two other LAVATEC CTWs. Patrick Garcia confirmed that since 1995, the company has saved more than 500 million gallons of water from the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). In turn, SAWS recognized the company with a Water Excellence award for the best environmental performance as a large wastewater site.

“All three machines here in San Antonio hold a special place in our company's history. When we rebuilt, we installed the other two tunnel washers when we reopened in 2003,” noted Patrick Garcia. “Having an automated washing system has been a significant advantage for our operations. It has helped us improve production time, reduce labor requirements, and save on energy costs.”

With the tunnel washers, Division utilizes over 20 LAVATEC machines. The San Antonio facility is also home to 18 dryers, 15 of which are from the TT-745 series and three are high performance, FL656 front-loading gas dryers. They also employ a pair of LX-445 washer extractors.

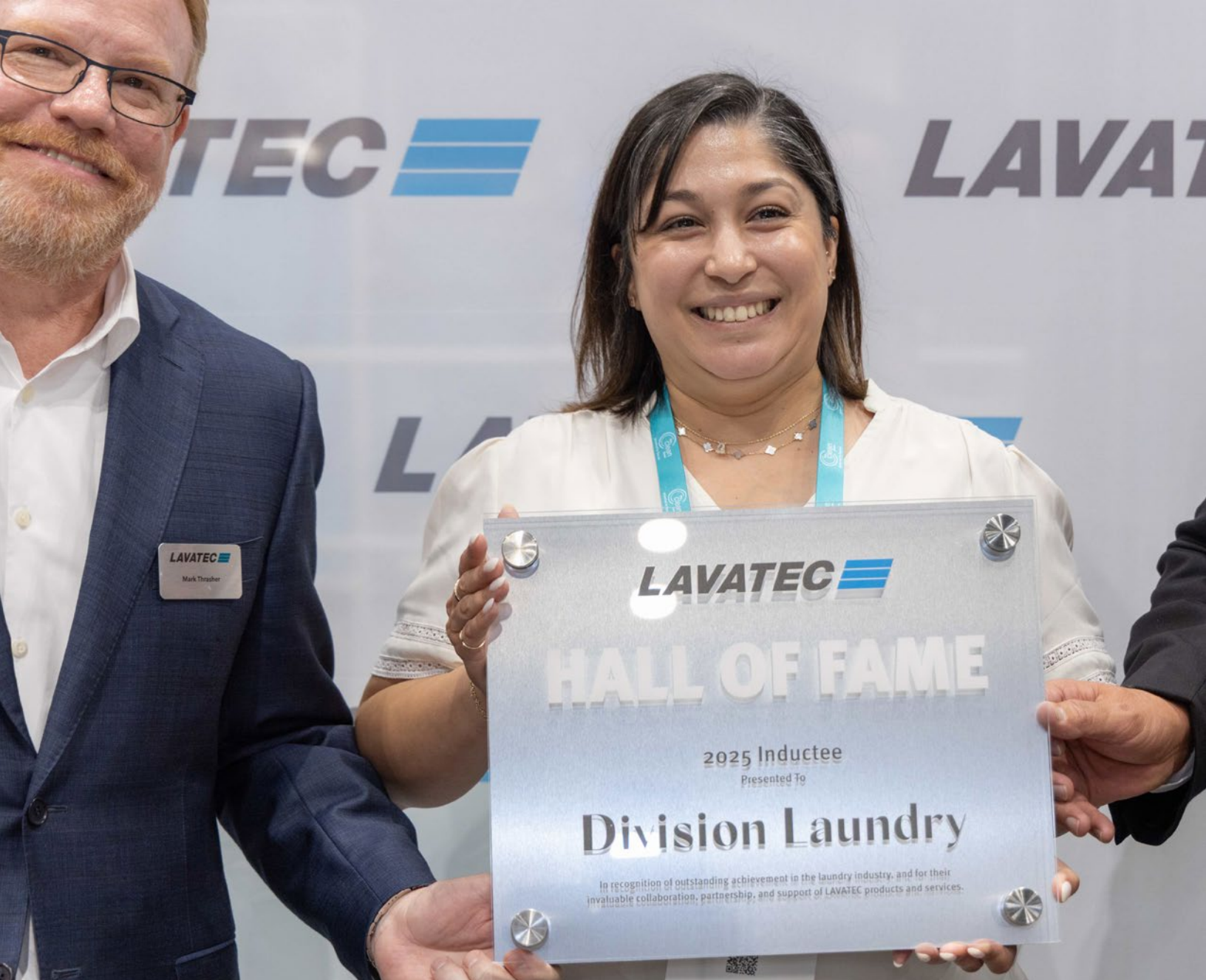
Theresa Garcia said Division's maintenance team works with LAVATEC's service department to ensure all of the equipment is performing at the highest productivity levels.

“Keeping our equipment running at a high level is a top priority for us. Staying on top of preventative maintenance is what allows us to sustain that kind of operation without sacrificing performance,” she explained. “Our team performs regular maintenance on all three tunnel washers, which has been key to keeping them running efficiently and reliably.”

“We also have a strong working relationship with the LAVATEC service group,” continued Ms. Garcia. “We work closely with them whenever we need assistance or help with troubleshooting, and we collaborate with them to make sure we have all the necessary parts in stock to keep our equipment maintained and running. They have always been responsive and helpful, and we value the partnership we have built with them over the years.”

As Division reaches the halfway mark of its 87th year, Patrick Garcia is grateful for its current standing in the marketplace.

“I never envisioned Division being where it is today. This business was founded by my father, and when he became ill my mother stepped in and kept it going. That spirit of resilience carried us through everything that followed,” he recalled. “We rebuilt, grew, and now have our children and son-in-law as part of the team carrying forward a legacy that started with their grandparents. We are extremely proud of how far we have come.”



Theresa Garcia accepted the award when Divison was inducted into the first class of LAVATEC's Hall of Fame at The Clean Show In 2025. They were one of six companies and one individual who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to laundry industry excellence.



The company has been recognized with numerous awards for their efforts and involvement in the San Antonio community throughout the years.

About Lavatec Laundry Technology, Inc.

Delivering dependable commercial laundry equipment engineered for higher returns throughout their lifecycles has been the Lavatec Laundry Technology mantra for over four decades. Some LAVATEC manufactured equipment has been on the job for more than a quarter century. A rarity among manufacturers of continuous tunnel washers, LAVATEC offers center transfer, bottom transfer and standing bath construction options, plus a full range of readily integrated, end-to-end laundry system components: washer extractors, extraction presses, centrifuges, dryers, conveyor systems, pickers, feeders, ironers and folders. Simple design, durable construction, user-friendly operation and low maintenance are hallmarks of LAVATEC machines. A global leader with equipment in laundry operations throughout Europe, the Far East, South and North America, more than 8,000 LAVATEC machines have been installed in the United States alone. For more information, visit the website.



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