



KALIFA'S

WESTERN WEAR, INC.

Legendary businessman hanging up his spurs

By: Benjamin Treviño



Lalo and Alma Kalifa.

Kalifa's Western Wear, a name that has long been synonymous with downtown McAllen, will soon be no more. Owner Abdala Kalifa has announced that he is retiring from the company he founded in 1974.

"It's not that business is not good. The business is still good," Kalifa said when asked about the reason for his retirement. "I just want to spend more time with my family. I'm up there in age. I'm 73 years old and I want to spend the few years I have left with my family."

Kalifa was born and raised in McAllen, and says he got interested in retail business because his parents owned and operated a dry goods store in downtown McAllen. He says initially he did a lot of

wholesale business into Mexico, which allowed him to invest in various properties around town.

"Thank God everything's paid for," Kalifa mused. "I have several spaces here downtown, and I have them leased out, mainly on 17th street. I also own shopping centers on 10th street and on Bicentennial. I just sold a shopping center that I owned on 10th and Trenton."

Kalifa said his last official day at work will be April 30. He says he already has the Kalifa's Western Wear building leased out to a tenant, and that it will continue as a western wear store, but he did not disclose the tenant's name or what the new business will be called.

Kalifa's parting word

for the community is "gratitude."

"I just want to thank all my customers for being with me for all this time," Kalifa said. "A lot of them have been asking me why I'm closing, because they like my business. I know what the customers want, and I'm the one who orders the merchandise, so they have always found it here."

Kalifa said that although he's retiring, he's not disappearing from the community. He plans to continue serving on the board of Lone Star National Bank, and other local committees.