FUNDACIÓN
CORRIPIO
ALONSO

SPEECH AT THE FIRST CORRIPIO-ALONSO AWARD CEREMONY

Alejandro Vega Riego. Mayor or Villaviciosa

Teatro Riera, Villaviciosa, 2 October 2026

Good evening,

Members of the Corripio-Alonso family (members of the Board of Trustees present here today, Manuel, Lucía and Ana), and the Foundation's Secretary,

President of the Parliament of the Principality of Asturias,

President of the High Court of Justice of Asturias,

Former President of the Principality of Asturias, President De Silva,

General Director for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy at the Regional Department of Social Rights and Welfare, representing the Government of the Principality of Asturias,

President of the Princess of Asturias Foundation, and representatives of other institutions, foundations, businesses and associations,

Mayor of Cabranes, Deputy Mayor of Piloña, members of the Villaviciosa Municipal Council, representatives of the municipal councils of Piloña and Cabranes, and other civil and ecclesiastical authorities and representatives of the security forces,

Our award recipients and members of the judging panels,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Villaviciosa Town Council, and in my own name, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all, especially to those who have travelled from elsewhere to be with us today.

When I looked at the running order for this ceremony and realised that I would be speaking after the tribute to Pepín Corripio we have just watched and listened to, I was reminded of a line from a well-known song by the Spanish band El Último de la Fila: *"If what you are about to say is not more beautiful than silence, then don't say it."*

Indeed, I can think of little that we could add to his words. They would, in themselves, be enough reason for holding this ceremony. Today, for the first time, we are honouring individuals and organisations whose achievements deserve our deepest appreciation and congratulations. In doing so, we are fulfilling the very purpose for which the Foundation was established: to recognise outstanding contributions to culture, the arts, heritage, science, technology, social welfare and humanitarian work, made by individuals, institutions and groups within the Foundation's sphere of activity.

FUNDACIÓN
CORRIPIO
ALONSO

We are gathered here at the Teatro Riera almost exactly one year after 4 October 2025. On that occasion, Mr Pepín and Mrs Ana María were here with their children as we witnessed the presentation of a project born of the Corripio-Alonso family's determination to honour their roots and remain true to them: this Foundation.

Yet, the seed from which this project grew was sown on 9 August 2022, when Pepín spoke in the council chamber at Villaviciosa Town Hall after receiving, in the presence of Ana María, their sons and daughters, and other family members, the highest honour our town can bestow upon one of its own: the title of *Favourite Son of Villaviciosa*. *Listín Diario*, the Dominican Republic's oldest newspaper and part of the Corripio media group, reported the news the following day. According to the newspaper, Pepín began his speech by saying that he would let emotion speak rather than calculation, literary eloquence or protocol. He also confessed to being surprised by the intensity of his feelings: "I didn't realise I would be so deeply moved, even though I'm used to giving speeches like these."

Two months later, on 5 October 2022, he received the highest honour bestowed by the Senate of the Dominican Republic in recognition of his contributions to culture and freedom. The ceremony took place in the National Assembly chamber, in the presence of the President of the Republic and the President of the Senate. The same newspaper reported some of the words he spoke on that historic occasion, and I would like to share them with you today:

- *"Just as hard work, discipline, perseverance and leading by example are the cornerstones of success, success must always be approached with caution and humility."*
- *"We must not forget that our achievements, like everything else in life, are the result of the collective efforts of many people, like a multitude of arrows bound together in a single, solid sheaf."*
- *"Crossing the ocean of uncertainty, my ancestors found in this land a kind and generous people, hardworking and ready to stand by others."*
- *"By leading by example, we can do more than demand; we can help, more than correct; we can teach."*

These are just some of the principles that have shaped a lifetime of achievement. It is a remarkable journey. One that we, here in the land where Pepín was born, look upon with ever-growing pride. That is what I wish to express today, at this first edition of the Corripio-Alonso Awards. In these turbulent times, when mediocrity and poor examples so often seem to prevail in politics and in other areas of public life, particularly on social media; we need role models more than ever. Pepín Corripio is undoubtedly one of them.

We must learn to value all those qualities that, sadly, are becoming increasingly rare: the dedication, commitment and achievements of the people we honour here today. And if you will allow me, as the Mayor of Villaviciosa, I would like to single out one of this year's recipients: Raitana, the Association for People with Disabilities. When it comes to setting an example, I can speak from personal experience about the invaluable work carried out every day by the people, volunteers and professionals who devote themselves to this worthy cause. I have a particular affection for Raitana, both personally and in my capacity as Mayor. That affection goes back to 2015, when the association began to spread its wings, in the very year I took on the responsibilities I continue to hold today. In recognising Raitana, I also wish to pay tribute to all the other award recipients, whose achievements have earned them this well-deserved recognition.

Let me conclude by returning to the image we shared here a year ago, inspired by two works by the Asturian writer and *Indiano* Alfonso Camín, which evoke apple orchards, oak trees and palm trees. We spoke of the apple orchard at La Pumarada in Valbuena, Cabranes; the oak at La Rionda in Arroes, Villaviciosa; and the great oak of Coya, in Piloña. These are the roots of the story we celebrate today: a seed that took root and

FUNDACIÓN
CORRIPIO
ALONSO

flourished in the Dominican Republic, across the ocean of uncertainty, and ultimately gave rise to the Corripio-Alonso family we know today.

And as we reflect on the strength and resilience symbolised by the oak, we once again express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Pepín and Mrs Ana María. In his speech before the Senate, Pepín described Ana María as the guardian angel who keeps the family together. We wish them both, and their entire family, good health, happiness and every success in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.

Calle Uría 18-3º Izquierda
3303-Oviedo (Asturias)

+34 985 96 32 95

info@fundacioncorripioalonso.com
www.fundacioncorripioalonso.com