

Ray Zavala, Blessed Barber Studio

Growing up in Puerto Rico, Ray Zavala (aka: Papito Blessedhands) noticed barbers were respected people in the community. He admired their talent for precision cuts and straight razor shaves. Ray wanted to be a barber and at the age of 12, he began cutting hair. His mother called him “papito” and said he was “blessed with talented hands.” Ray became known as “Papito Blessedhands.”

Papito enlisted in the United States Army after 9/11. While in the Army, his tonsorial skill led him to known for being a barber rather than an Army mechanic. Fellow soldiers and high-ranking officers would always ask Papito for a haircut and shave.

He gained a following on and off the Army bases where he was stationed. While stationed at Ft. Bliss, Papito immediately fell in love with El Paso and decided to make it his home after the Army.

Papito began working for a local barber in El Paso, word quickly spread about his impeccable eye for quality cuts and shaves. Clients would wait hours to get haircuts, tapers, fades and straight razor shaves. Soon after Papito launched his own on-line grooming and styling product line. “Blessed by Papito Blessedhands” was an instant success with consumers and professional barbers from around the country. After launching the on-line business, Papito decided it was time to open his own place. He contacted the Small Business Development Center at El Paso Community College and received assistance with a business plan, financials, and business formation. Blessed Barber Studio opened in East El Paso in 2016, two years later a second location opened in West El Paso.

“El Paso is where I became who I am today; I will forever have El Paso on my shoulders. God has blessed me with hands that have made me the barber I am today. I am a professional barber.” *Papito Blessedhands*