

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1983

Dear Mr. Tellez:

On behalf of President Reagan, thank you for your letter of April 30 recommending Dr. Hector P. Garcia for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Please be assured that he will receive every due consideration for this high honor.

As you point out, Dr. Garcia is an extraordinary individual whose contributions have earned him the gratitude of the American people. However, I should point out that the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award bestowed by the President on behalf of the Nation and the competition is extremely heavy. Many more recipients are suggested than can be included in the relatively few medals awarded by each President.

Again, thank you for bringing Dr. Garcia to our attention.

Yours sincerely,



Aram Bakshian, Jr.
Deputy Assistant to
the President

Mr. Louis P. Tellez
National Executive
Secretary/Treasurer
Post Office Box 7515
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194-7515