

STATE LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Sponsoring Agency: Nueces County Young Lawyers Association

Nominee: Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Physician
D/B: January 17, 1914

Educational Background: B.A. - University of Texas (1936)
Doctor of Medicine-University of Texas
School of Medicine (1940)

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a veteran of World War II who was awarded the Bronze Star, has since the late 1940's led his community in achieving a better understanding of the American system of freedom under law.

He organized and founded the American G.I. Forum in 1948 and continues to serve his community, and the nation, through this organization. This organization stands for the proposition as enunciated in our Bill of Rights, that all men are created equally and all men have inalienable rights which should be respected and honored by all persons with a full understanding that no one has rights without corresponding duties under our system.

Dr. Garcia continued to encourage greater participation by all people in our system of government throughout the 1950's; always insuring that those advocating changes worked within the legal processes. If one is dissatisfied, then a complete understanding of the law will assist one in achieving his goal - this could be a motto of Dr. Garcia.

The ability of Dr. Hector P. Garcia to communicate and foster a greater understanding and appreciation of our system of government and law was recognized by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. In 1961, Dr. Garcia was a representative of President Kennedy and a member of the American delegation to the signing of a treaty between the U.S.A. and the Federation of West Indies; in 1964, President Johnson appointed him a presidential representative with the rank of Special Ambassador to the inauguration of the President of Venezuela.

In 1967, President Johnson requested the unselfish services of Dr. Garcia as a member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity of the U.S. and appointed him as alternate delegate to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador.

But, Dr. Garcia's devotion to service of his fellow man has not been confined to promoting a greater participation and understanding of our system of law and government; in 1967, he received a Cancer Society Award for 10 years service to that organization.

The following year, 1968, President Johnson again called upon the services of Dr. Garcia:

1. March - accompanied Vice-President Humphrey to Mexico City for the signing of a treaty between Mexico and the U.S.A.;
2. June - appointed as a member of the United States National Commission for UNESCO;
3. November - sworn in as a Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The numerous achievements and awards of this man cannot be detailed; but he continues to this day to stand for and promote the American system - EQUALITY FOR ALL MEN.

HONORS/AWARDS OF DR. GARCIA

1. Outstanding Latin American citizen of the Alba Club of the University of Texas (1949).
2. "Democracy Forward" Bronze plaque award by Texas Council Negro Organization (1955).
3. National President - Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations (1960 - 1964).
4. Outstanding citizenship award by United Married Couples (1960).
5. Bronze plaque awarded by VFW of Post 8931 (1964).
6. President of Republic of Panama presented Dr. Garcia with "Condecoracion, Order Vasco Nunez de Balboa" with rank of Commander.
7. In recognition of his services honoring returned Viet Nam casualties, awarded Marine plaque by 8th Marine Corps District (1967).
8. Humanitarian Award, presented by Corpus Christi Chapter of NAACP (1969).

OTHER SERVICE OF DR. GARCIA

1. Democratic National Committee - 1954.
2. Chairman - Mexican Spanish Section, Nationalities Division of Democratic National Committee (1960).
3. Board Member - American Red Cross Disaster Program (Hurricane Celia - 1970).
4. Member of Texas Advisory Committee to U. S. Commission on Civil Rights (1972).