



AMERICAN G I FORUM OF THE U.S.

June 11, 1970

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Mr. Sam Kendrick
Editor "Offbeat"
The San Antonio Express
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

I am grateful that you have in part explained the greatness of our greatest Mexican American legal "brain" Gustavo (Gus) Garcia. There is no question that he did more for the Mexican Americans of Texas than anyone else before or since his death.

There are many other great, humanitarian, and compassionate things that Gus did for our people, and I do agree with you that in his lifetime all of us honored, respected and loved Gus. His working together with lawyers like Carlos Cadena, Johnny Herrera, James De Anda, Cris Aldrete, Ed Idar, and Maury Maverick Jr produced great legal victories for our people. His actions moved our third class citizenship position about fifty years ahead of those oppressive and abusive times.

Dr. George I. Sanchez contributed very much to those school victories in the 40s and 50s. However it is still a sad thing to say that even after such great victories as the "Minerva Delgado School Segregation Case", the "Hernandez Jury Discrimination Case", the "Draft Board Discrimination", the "Kingsville Jr. High School Case", and many others, we are still victims of discrimination in a great number of school districts in Texas including Corpus Christi.

I am interested that for historical accuracy you expand the facts in the "Felix Longoria Burial Case" in Three Rivers, Texas. Gustavo did very much for the Longoria family and others in this case; however, it was the American G I Forum and myself (Dr. Hector P. Garcia) that initially protested this horrible action of denial of christian burial to a great war hero. It was I who called the funeral director and it was the Forum that contacted Senator Lyndon Johnson. It was I who went through a vicious investigation by a "prejudiced" committee from the Texas Legislature. Certainly, Gus helped and we are grateful.

It was then that the American G I Forum, who fought for honor and decency, and we, with the help of other Mexican Americans in

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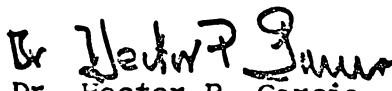
Texas, raised enough money to "fly" all of the Longoria family to Washington's Arlington Cemetery where Longoria is now "resting in peace" not far away from the "Kennedy Brothers'" gravesites.

Certainly, if you wish to check the story, consult both the Corpus Christi Caller Times and the San Antonio papers for those black and horrible days in Texas in "January of 1949".

Dr. George I. Sanchez, Gustavo Garcia and I with the help of Organizations like LULAC and the American G I Forum continued to work on many other cases in order to get the Mexican Americans their full rights and first class American citizenship, which we "still" do not have.

Today and Tomorrow, we will carry Gustavo's fight until we win and we will respect, honor and remember Gustavo "Gus" Garcia.

Yours truly,


Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Founder and Chairman

HPG/lv