

T.R.Estrada 1615 Pearl St. Austin, Texas

Janruary 15, 1957

Mr.Hector P. Garcia M.D. 3024 Morgan Ave. Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Doc Hec:

I do hope that this letter finds you as well as your wonderful staff in the best of health and cheer. I am am very sorry(as you are well aware) that I was not able to attend the Board of Directors Meeting in New Branfuls. But there were several fators that influenced the situation. First, I could never get in touch with Mr. Pinado, and secondly, I was in the process of moving that certain weekend, and therefore had quite a few things to do. However, I sincerely hope that everything went off smoothly, and that everyone there benefited.

School is now rough as hell. With finals and other such things coming up one hardly has time to do anything but study and sleep. I hope that I will be able to come through jine in everythin g. However, it is always wise not to be too optimistic.

Again, I am sorry to have been absent from the meeting. By the was did you get the article that I sent you about Dr. Sanchez? I saw him today and he told me to releat h is respects to you.

Let me hear from you real soon. Till then

I remain,

Cordially yours,

Teodoro R. Estrada

Hef: Enclosed is a theme which I wrote for a friend of mime. Let me know what you think of it. Theme for English 601a; University of Texas English Dept

The first human impabitants of what is now known as Texas were roaming Indians, followed by Spanish colonist s who, in time, were subjugated by English speaking adventurers from the East. By this time most of the Indians had bee annihilated or driven from Texas; the Spaniards either submitted to Yankee rule or fled to Mexico. Then, after years of relative peace and goodwill, the mestizo, someone of Indio-Spanish origin, crossed the Rio Grande into Texas to seek his fortune in the bright land of promised opportunity. When he had forged a standing in life above that of soil-bound peon, th e mestizo/ informed his friends and relatives of his great success.

This good news was greeted with wild enthusiasm by his cousins in Mexico, and they began their trek to Texas. Unfortunately, Sr. Garcia--mythical <u>mestizo</u> from Mexico-- had more cousins than the limited economy of Texas could adequately accommodate. Most of the emigres could find jobs on ranches and farms, by they were only able to provide the barest essentials for these people who had left Mexico to escape privation. These people became to be known as Latin-Americans. These people, who had come to Texas for a better life, were met with the stigma of poverty and ignorance on their beseeching plams.

It was not easy for the Latin-Americans to overcome the rank discrimination meted out to them by the landed cattle and cotton barons. They lived, and many still live, in wretched shan ties in filthy ghetto-like sections of ranches, towns, and cities. Many of them were handicapped by the languag e barrier and illiteracy. For economice reasons-- cheap labor-- they are still being held down by subtle forms of discrimination by many anglo-Saxon businessmen and ranchers.

Not antil 1945, when the Mexican government demanded that Latin-Americans living in the Univted States be classified as Caucasoids, did the tide begin to turn in favor of the Latin-Americans citizens of this country and state. The public schools for Anglo-Saxon children were open to the Latin-Americans over most of the state. Restaurants and theatres were also at the disposal of these people living in misery. The Second World War was the major blow to the Anglo-Saxon domination, for when the Latin-Americans went to war they saw life in a different light. They were told that they might have to sacrifice lives for the "preservation" of liberty. When these men returned to their shabby civilian enviroment they saw the necessity to create liberty, to raise the standard of dducation of their progeny, thereby raising their standard of living.

Organizations, such as the American Gi I. Gorum were created to furtyer the aims of Latin-Americans aspiring to a better life. Hence, a new generation of Latin-Americans, imbued with positive aspirations, has arrived on the Texas scene. They to be sure, are a min ority within a minority, but it is importan t that they do exist. Adn they have an improtant goal: to fulfill the hopes of their forebearers, the first <u>mestizos</u> to seek out a better life in fromtier Texas

Ted Sent this to Senator

AMERICAN SERVICE MEN OF MEXICAN ORIGIN WHO RECEIVED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ANNY DURING WORLD WAR II.

Garcia, Macario. S/Sgt., 38246362. 22nd Inf., 4th Div.. Born in Villa de Castano, Mexico, and the last shown address is at Box 251 in Sugarland, Texas. Sgt. Garcia was born on January 2. 1920.

*Gonzales, David M. Pfc., 39530611. 127th Inf., 3rd Div.. Born in Pacoima, California and the last shown address is 10886 Sutter Street in Pacoima, California. Private Gonzales was born on June 9. 1923.

Herrera, Silvestre S. Pfc., 39864749. 142 Inf. 36th Div.. Born in El Paso, Texas and the last shown address is 1139 West Sherman Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona. Private Herrera was born on July 17th, 1917.

Lopez, Jose M. Sgt., 18104345. 23rd Inf. 2nd Div. Born in Mission, Texas and the last shown address is Brownsville, Texas. Sgt. Lopez was born on June 1, 1912.

*Martinez, Joe P. Pvt. 32nd Inf. 7th Div. Born in Taos, New Mexico and the last shown address is Box 302 in Ault, Colorado. Private Martinez was born on July 27, 1920.

*Perez, Maguel, Jr. Pfc. 36722558. 511th Para. Inf. 11th Arbn. Div. Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the last shown address is Chicago, Illinois. Private Perez was born on March 3, 1923.

Rodriguez, Cleto. T/Sgt. 38456591. 148th Inf. 37th Div. Born in Marcos, Texas and the last shown address is 1108 Nonterrey St in San Antonio, Texas. Sgt. Rodriguez was born on April 26, 1923.

Ruiz, Alejandro R. Sgt. 38442412. 165th Inf. 27th Div. Born in Loving, New Mexico and the last shown address is Carlsbad, New Mexico. Sgt. Ruiz was born on June 24, 1924.

"Valdez, Jose F. Pfc. 3835 2446. 7th Inf. 3rd Div. Born in Governador, New Mexico and the last shown address is Governador, New Mexico. Private Valdez was born on January 30, 1925.

Willegas, Yamsel R. S/Sgt. 39393115. TEWtEnTof3rg28d Div. Born an Casa Blanca, California and the last shown address is 3105 Madison St. in Casa Blanca Cal. Sgt. Villegas was born on March 21, 1924.

* Posthumous presentation of Congressional Medal of Honor.

THE FOLLOWING MEN LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT. 3

Desiderio, Reginald B. Capt. Ol 301 272. 27th Inf. Regt. 25th Inf. Div. Born in Clairton, Pennsylvania and the last shown address is Gilroy, California.

Martinez, Benito. US 54055 424. 27th Inf. Regt. 25th Inf. Div. Born in Washington, D.C. and the last shown address is Washington, D.C.

Rodriguez, Joseph C. Sgt. 56068 814. 17th Inf. Regt. 7th Inf. Div. Born in San Bernarding California, and the last shown addres is San Bernardino, California.

* Posthumous presentation of award.

AMBRICAN SERVICE MEN OF MEXICAN OR PSANISH SURNAME ORIGIN THAT WERE WINNERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.

- Comes, Eward. Pfc. United States Marine Corps. State accredited for the award is Nebraska.
- Sublien, Ambrosio. SySgtt. United States Marine Corps. State accredited for the award is Texas.
- Lopes, Baldomero. 1st Lt. United States Marine Corps. State accredited is Florida.
- Ortega, John. Seaman, United States Navy. Born 1840 in Spain. State accredited for the award is Pennsylvania.

THERE WERE NO WINNERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN ORIGIN IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THIS INCLUDES ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE.

TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO WINNERS IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.