June 24, 1991

Lynda Rodriguez
2216 Daisy Lane
Ft. Worth, Texas 76111

Dear Lynda:

The falling are answers to your questions in numerical order of your letter.

1. I served as a personnel Seargeant and Supply Seagt. with a Medical Supply depat in the South Pacific area.

2. I was single and my mother was worried sick all the time I served in the Pacific Campaign. Also since I was the bread winner in my family she suffered financially since my civ pay was $150.00 per month and my Army pay was only $30.00 per month

3. I served in a company of 120 Soldiers and I was 1 of 4 Hispanics in my outfit. I discovered for the first time in my life

that I was not considered a 2nd Class citizen. We were fighting for our life and all 120 were equal in every respect and members of the same team we each depended on each other to survive.

4. When I returned home in December of 1945, after serving my country for over 3 years, 2 years in the mosquito infested South Pacific fighting a very intelligent and formidable enemy I found that my serving my country made very little difference, I was still regarded as a 2nd class citizen with no opportunities for employment, inferior education and bad discriminatory practices in employment, education, housing etc.

5. We have come a long way since World War II, I am very happy and proud that our country has finally recognized the sacrifice and suffering of us that fought to keep our

country free. However there is still a lot of subtle discrimination against Hispanics in certain areas of Southwest U.S.A. Texas, New Mexico, Arizona etc and some discrimination exists in the same areas & mentioned in question 4. Just check the statistics on Hispanic employment, School drop outs, college students etc.

Gilbert G. Casares
Master Sergeant, WW II
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