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May 26, 1978

Texas Young Lawyers Association
c/o Mr. Charles Foster
Attorney at Law
810 Pennzoil Place - South Tower
711 Louisiana Street
Houston, TX 77002

Re: Liberty Bell Award

Dear Mr. Foster:

I wish to recommend Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi for the Texas Young Lawyers Liberty Bell Award. I believe he meets all the criteria necessary for the award.

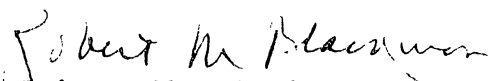
Dr. Garcia is a household word in Corpus Christi, and has been for as long as I can remember. He is active in politics, although he is not an elected official, nor has he ever sought elective office. He is a spokesman for those many persons in South Texas who are economically and socially deprived. He is active in veterans' affairs, and is the founder of the nationally recognized American G. I. Forum. This organization had its 30th reunion recently and attending were the Undersecretary of the Navy, Mr. Eduardo Hidalgo, Senator Tower, Governor Dolph Briscoe, a representative of Senator Bensen's office, Congressman John Young, and many local city and county leaders. I do not recall that so many notable men and women have gathered together in one place to show their appreciation to one man. This meeting alone is an indication of the respect and admiration Dr. Garcia has in our community.

Dr. Garcia is a Medical Doctor and can be found at most any hour in his office behind the Central Pharmacy on Morgan Avenue, looking after his many patients.

Mr. Charles Foster
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A champion of many good causes, Dr. Garcia's most recent and important contribution to Corpus Christi and its people has been his effort to "keep the Naval Air Station open". Dr. Garcia worked together with the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, the City and County Administrations, and with many other local leaders to make presentations to the Navy Department, Department of Defense, the Congress and The President, and has been successful in delaying the Navy's apparent determination to close the Naval Air Station. It now appears the facility will remain open, due particularly to Dr. Garcia's personal efforts. No other individual, in my mind, did so much for so many. Some four thousand persons are employed as civil servants at the Naval Air Station, not to mention the many, many persons indirectly employed because of the Naval Air Station. The Navy is the largest single employer in Corpus Christi.

For these reasons, and because of the respect I have for Dr. Garcia, and the admiration that I know he has from the citizens of this community, I am pleased to recommend Dr. Garcia for the TYLA Liberty Bell Award.


Robert M. Blackmon
Director, District 14

RMB:lj