

AF C ann fears crawford

12 January 1975

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

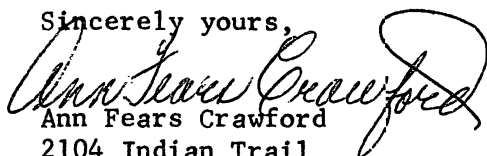
I am currently compiling a book on prominent Mexican Americans to be published by Steck Vaughn in 1975. I would like to include biographical material on your life in the book.

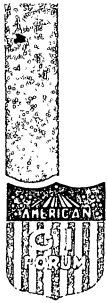
Would you please send me enough biographical material to complete an interesting sketch? Also, any quotes that you would like to make. I would also like for you to answer the questions I have enclosed. Please feel free to include any other comments that you would care to make.

If possible, please send a black and white glossy print of yourself that can be reproduced in the book. We will be happy to return it to you.

May I have your answer at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely yours,


Ann Fears Crawford
2104 Indian Trail
Austin, Texas 78703



AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE U.S.

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.
FOUNDER
1315 BRIGHT STREET
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
78405
AC 512 • 883-3982

February 19, 1975

Ms. Ann Fears Crawford
2104 Indian Trail
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Ms. Crawford;

I received your letter of January 12, 1975 in which you request some biographical material on my life. I was certainly very glad to hear from you. I am also very honored to be one of the Mexican Americans you have considered to compile your book.

Enclosed you will find a copy of my most current biographical material and also the additional questionnaire you enclosed with specific questions. Also enclosed is a photo you requested.

I look forward to the publication of your book and I would certainly like to hear from you again. I would like to the name of the book so that I may obtain copies of it.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hector P. Garcia

DR HECTOR P GARCIA FEBRUARY 18, 1975.

What factors have made you particularly proud of your Mexican American heritage?

MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE MEXICAN TEACHERS IN MEXICO. THEY MADE US READ & UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF TWO PEOPLES THE SPANIARD AND THE AZTEC INDIAN. THEY MADE US PROUD OF OUR CULTURE AND GREATNESS. THEY MADE US STUDY THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

Describe one incident in your life that has particular meaning to you?

MY BROTHER OLDER, FINISHING MEDICAL SCHOOL. THEREBY PROVING THAT IF HE COULD GRADUATE WITH HONORS, ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL AND BECOME A DOCTOR. THAT EDUCATION WAS NOT AN IMPOSSIBILITY. I TOO THOUGHT I COULD SUCCEED IN EDUCATION.

What factors inspired you to make a success of your life? What persons?

L. MY FATHER AND MOTHER. MY OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS. MY MILITARY TRAINING IN C.M.T.C. CAMPS AT AN EARLY AGE THAT MADE ME BECOME A U.S. INFANTRY OFFICER THEREBY GIVING ME PRIDE AND PRESTIGE. PRES JOHN F KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSONS EFFORTS TO HELP ME AND MY GROUP THE MEXICAN AMERICAN.

Describe your activities with groups designed to help Mexican Americans.

OPENING THE DOOR. BEING THE PIONEER. PROVING THAT MEXICAN AMERICANS COULD EXCEL OUTSIDE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL FIELDS. OVERCOME THE MYTH THAT MEXICAN AMERICANS COULD NOT BE ORGANIZERS. THE FOUNDING AND ORGANIZATION OF THE A.G.I.F OF THE U.S. WAS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT THAT I UNDERTOOK.

What value would you place on education for the Mexican American youth of today?

GREATEST OF VALUE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN EVERY LEGAL BATTLE IN THE EDUCATION OF THE MEX. AMER. THAT IS WHY I HAVE WITH THE AGIFORUM FILED HUNDREDS OF CASES AND HUNDREDS MORE COMPLAINTS BECAUSE THE SYSTEM HAS FAILED IN GIVING US EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS DONE WITH AN INTENT. WE MUST CONTINUE THE FIGHT UNTIL WE WIN EVERYTHING IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

What do you think is the future for Mexican American youth of today? What opportunities are open to them?

THEIR FUTURE LIES ON EDUCATION BUT MORE THAN THAT ON BILINGUAL EDUCATION. BICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING. THEIR DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE SPANISH-MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE IS DEVASTATING AND DAMAGING. BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW THIS. THEY SHOULD BE MADE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THIS IS THEIR ONLY ADVANTAGE.

RECOMMEND BILINGUAL BICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ALL S.W. SCHOOLS FOR 3 GRADES. FORCING OUR OWN TO CONTINUE TAKING SPANISH IN HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGES, UNIV. ETC.

What factors of discrimination have you noted in your life? What factors for other Mexican Americans?

DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION IS THE WORSE. JOB EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION ETC IS SECOND. POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION BY ELECTED OFFICIALS IS IMPROVING BUT STILL PRESENT.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY BY STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICES IS WEAK AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED.

INVOLVEMENT WITH MEXICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE AMERICAN GI. FORUM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, FOR TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP.

I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF MY BIOGRAPHY AND PERHAPS THIS WOULD HELP.

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS CALL ME.

DR HECTOR P GARCIA.

Hector P Garcia