



Texas State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Austin, Texas

EDDIE CAVAZOS  
District 35, Nueces County  
2207 Baldwin Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405  
512-887-8041

Austin Office:  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78769  
512-475-3316

March 24, 1983

Dr. Hector Garcia  
1315 Bright  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia,

It was with great pride and respect for you and your organization that my wife and I attended your Founder's Day Banquet last Saturday night. Your accomplishments and dedication have been an inspiration not only to me but to other Mexican-American in Corpus Christi and around the world. For these reasons, writing this letter has been a most difficult task for me. The treatment that my wife and I received was not only insulting but uncalled for.

Upon arrival at your banquet, we stood in line along with some of the special guests and overheard members of your organization welcome them, thank them for attending your banquet and escorted them to special seating that had been reserved for them. When it was our turn, we were notified that not only did we not have a reserved area, but that we had to find seating arrangements on our own.

Since I had not received any letter of invitation or any tickets I requested two tickets from your president, Mr. Leija. He proceeded to give me two tickets and demanded that I be sure to pay for the tickets within twenty-four hours, as they were not complimentary. I had not requested any complimentary tickets though I am sure there had been some given to your honored guests.

Sitting among your special guests at the Head Table were people from the community whom we have fought and who have fought us on issues that affect Mexican-Americans. It became apparent to me that these people were receiving better treatment from your organization than the people who have defended the rights that your organization stands for.

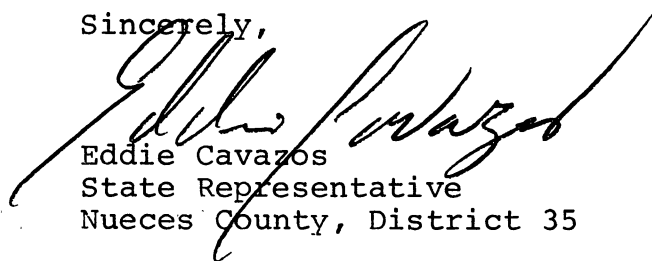
Page 2 of 2  
Dr. Hector Garcia  
March 24, 1983

I write this letter to you not so much as to complain but hopefully to prevent this type of incident from happening again. Let me assure you that I will continue to serve you and your organization as your State Representative in Austin and will be willing to work with you in any other matters in the future.

However, I cannot condone the actions taken by your president, Mr. Leija, and will therefore, no longer participate in any future G.I. Forum function as long as Mr. Leija is president of your local chapter. While serving on the Committee of Sixteen and in other activities, Mr. Leija has demonstrated to be and continues to be an embarrassment to the Mexican-American community in Corpus Christi. He has traditionally shown a lack of respect for elected Mexican-American officials, while continuing to kiss the "gringo's" posterior.

If I or any member of my staff can be of any assistance to you please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Cavazos", written over the typed name and title.

Eddie Cavazos  
State Representative  
Nueces County, District 35

EC/ks/ahm