Distinguished alumni named for '89 awards

An Academy Award-winning writer and director and the founder of a Hispanic veterans and civil rights organization are among six University of Texas graduates who will receive Distinguished Aluminus Awards for 1989, UT said Friday. The awards will be presented in October. The recipients are:

• Robert Benton, who won an Oscar in 1980 for the screenplay for Kramer vs. Kramer, and another in 1984 for directing Places in the Heart. Benton received a bachelor's degree from UT in 1953.

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• George Christian, press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson in 1960-69. Christian, an Austin political consultant, also served on the staff of the National Security Council and as press secretary to Gov. John Connally. He attended UT in the 1940s and received a bachelor's degree.

• Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi, founder of the American GI Forum. Garcia is a former member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He received a bachelor's degree from UT in 1936 and a medical degree from the UT Medical Branch in Galveston in 1940.

Reynaldo G. Garza of Brownsville, senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Garza, a federal judge since 1961, was named to the appeals court in 1979 by irresident Jimmy Carter. He received bachelor's and law degrees from UT in 1939.

James R. Moffett, chairman and chief executive of Freeport-McMoRan Inc. and president of McMoRan Oil and Gas Co. of New Orleans. Moffett is a member of the UT Development Board and a former member of the Geology Foundation Advisory Council. He received a bachelor's degree from UT in 1961.

• Edith O'Donnell, a Dallas philanthropist O'Donnell is a former member of the Texas Commission on the Arts, and serves on the

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boards of the Dallas Museum of Art and the O'Donnell Foundation in Dallas. She received a bachelor's degree from UT in 1948. She and her husband. Peter O'Donnell Jr., have made numerous donations to UT System institutions.