

American GI Forum # 1

Veterans Family Organization  
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

November 3, 1980

Com. Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

Office (505) 243-7551

Isabelle O. Tellez  
Chairperson

Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Founder

Catalina Gonzales  
Vice-Chairperson

American GI Forum  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Maj. Emelio Sanchez  
Treasurer

Erma Martinez  
Treasurer

Dear Hector:

Cindy Martinez  
Secretary

Just a short note to inquire as to your health. I hope things go well with you and your family.

Sgt. Javier S. Jasso  
Secretary

The GI Forum here in Albuquerque is doing well and we are finally in a position to take care of ourselves and hopefully not allow people to use us for their own purposes and without any intention of helping the organization as a whole. I have now learned to say no to people that have never helped us and don't intend to.

Atty. Jess Sandovar  
Legal Advisor

Frank Jaramillo  
Pledge Officer

Maria Ximenes  
Pledge Officer

Martin Martinez  
Parliamentarian

Barbara Trujillo  
Parliamentarian

Rev. Mario Canova  
Chaplain

Connie Campbell  
Chaplain

We had trouble in the State organization. Pete Jimenez a couple of years ago made public an affidavit which later turned out to be false in which he accused a Col. Sands of changing military orders to avoid going to Viet Nam. The statement by Pete Jimenez turned out to be false and Col. Sands filed a two million dollar suit against Pete Jimenez, the GI Forum of New Mexico, and a Col. Kretz, the person who signed the so-called affidavit. After much time and litigation a District Judge awarded Col. Sands fifteen thousand dollars. The ruling translates into five thousand dollars against Pete Jimenez, five thousand dollars against Mr. Kretz, and five thousand dollars against the GI Forum of New Mexico. In addition, there are attorney fees that were incurred by the New Mexico GI Forum as well as Pete Jimenez that will have to be paid. I am not sure how the State will pay these costs because they have no money. Furthermore, the New Mexico GI Forum is incorporated and the plaintiff can only take whatever assets the State of New Mexico has which at the moment is nothing.

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Youth Forum

Rebecca Proo  
Chairperson

Lisa Rodriguez  
Vice-Chairperson

Johnny Chavez  
Treasurer

Celia Tellez  
Secretary

The State Officers have learned a lesson the hard way. I advised Pete at the time he received the so-called affidavit not to release it to the press, but he felt there was a big story in it and called a press conference.

The New Mexico GI Forum went through a disastrous year because we had Officers who had grandiose ideas about coalitions. All their coalitions, as you and I know, fell apart and the GI Forum suffered the consequences.

Louis and I and some other State Officers are now trying to pick up the pieces. If all goes well we will, before convention time, set up the State

Dr. Hector P. Garcia

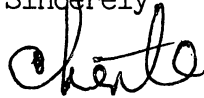
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organization on a functional basis. At this time I want to invite you to the State Convention to be held in Albuquerque on June 5, 6, and 7. Perhaps by then you will be well enough to travel and can enjoy meeting old friends again.

Give my regards to Rosita and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vicente".

Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

vTX/rip