

Raul C. Jelly
1501 Corpus-Christi St.
Laredo, Texas
78040.

Dear Doctor Garcia,

Here's hoping this humble letter finds you in the best of health, as it leaves me, thanks to Our Lord.

First of all I want to thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart for being instrumental, you and your G. I. Forum, in rendering a hero's funeral to my deceased son, Daniel Jelly, who gave his life for his loved ones and his country on Dec. 11, 1968 in Quang Tri, Vietnam.

It was because of you, the Founder, and your G. I. Forum that rendered all these honors to my son, of whom I feel very proud of and will honor his memory until the day I die.

For this reason I have written to you. I now live here in Laredo, Texas as I have done for the past four years since my son's mother divorced me and have often wondered why Laredo, Tex.

being at least 90% Mexican-American does not have as strong a chapter as it merits and I am in a position to say this with authority, if I may say so.

I have been to their so-called "meetings" where only four "officers" were present. I have talked to them time and again asking them to throw a recruiting drive and really be something but it seems to me that they lack the necessary incentive and leadership it requires to perform effectively.

I don't know whether you remember or not, but in 1964 I was appointed by you to be the Democratic chairman for the "Viva Johnson-Humphrey" political drive in Kleberg County and I did my best there if you remember correctly.

Now, Mrs. ? Salinas, a very active G. I. Forum Auxiliary member there in Kingsville told me she would talk to you so you would send me some paraphernalia and instigate the officers here into building a strong G. I. Forum. She took

my name and address, but up to now I have not heard neither from you nor from her and am really anxious to hear from you. Right now I already have at least 8-10 followers, who I know will be very active and a very nice nucleus to start with.

At the present time I am a Community organizer for the Anti-Poverty Program and am very optimistic of building up your Chapter here. All I need is your blessing and go ahead and I will get rolling.

I hope to see the day real soon when we here in Laredo can give our returning Veterans from Viet Nam a heroes' welcome and not wait until they arrive lifeless as my son did.

Hoping to have the honor to hear from you soon, I remain,

your Sincere Servant,
 Raul C. Irlbez,
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