

January 27, 1955

RE: Reyna, Adolfo de Jesus Jr.
3044 Reyna Street
U.S. 54116379
Corpus Christi, Texas

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Office of the Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

I would like you to know that we have been greatly concerned about your sickness but now we understand that you are doing very good since surgery. We pray to the Lord that you recover completely.

We want to thank you and your staff for the fine work in helping us with this case. However, I still feel that the discharge which has now been given him in lieu of the "general discharge" is not just or correct. According to the discharge which has been now authorized is "Honorable Discharge under the provision of Army Regulations 615-365 and Special Regulations 600-450-10" "Evaluation and Separation for Physical Disability which Existed prior to Entry on Active Duty".

I think that in all justice and after careful study of the case, I professionally believe that this condition "schizophrenia" did not exist prior to entry on Active duty. I believe that an honest mistake was made by the psychiatrist who examined the soldier during the various times he was examined. The first examination on Oct. 27, 1953 occurred six months or so after entrance to Army. Dr. at that time stated that he had no psychoneurosis or psychosis.

On the next examination which was done (if it was done) by the Board on April 6, 1954 a notation was made that Private Reyna elected to remain silent and did not cross examine witness, etc. It was by this time that I believe Reyna was already showing symptoms of his mental disease "schizophrenia". It is not noted on the letters sent whether or not a Psychiatrist saw him. If the record is correct the discharging board convened on April 6, 1954. Yet he remained in the army for a period of about six weeks more. I do not believe that he was again examined during the six weeks or so. Definitely he was not examined prior to discharge since any Doctor could diagnose his case as a "severe schizophrenia". I saw patient about two weeks after arrival in town. At that time I helped hospitalize him at Memorial Hospital because he had a full blown case of schizophrenia. He was irrational, had hallucination, delusions, he kept himself completely undressed, could not sleep and kept on hollering all of the time. Dr. William B. Cline, the psychiatrist confirmed the diagnosis and we had him transferred to the V.A. Mental Hospital in Waco.

2...Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, January 27, 1955.

There is no question that the Doctor who would have examined Reyna prior to his discharge would not have let him out since he was in danger not only to his own self but to others also. He certainly was in severe danger all during his travel and after he got here to Corpus. Personally, I would like to see the copy of his Medical Exam. done at the last camp prior to discharge.

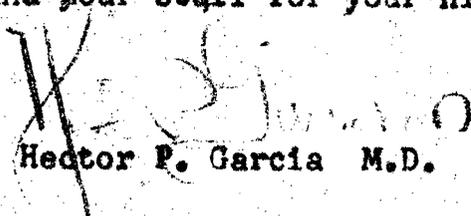
The examining doctors at the first examination stated that he might be slow mentally or mentally retarded. Yet evidently he passed all of the physical and mental and intelligence examinations prior to entry into the services.

I personally would like to have the Appeal Board review all of the evidence and ask them to consider the fact that evidently the Army life, etc., or some incident possibly shocked him into becoming a "schizophrenia". Definitely there is no evidence that he was a "schizophrenic" either by history or physical examination. As I stated the Doctors honestly erred in this case.

I am advising his mother Mrs. Rebecca Reyna to return the Gen. Discharge to your office and after you consider the case to advise her as to whether she should try to secure a discharge that does not specify "condition existing prior to entry in service". I believe that he should have been retired from the Army for physical disability and given a discharge for medical reasons by condition (schizophrenia) arising in the army.

As stated, however, the mother wants to act in good faith and is enclosing the discharge (gen). Let us know what you think; should be our next step if any. If you decide we should appeal the case higher then let us know.

In behalf of Mr. Adolfo de Jesus Reyna Jr. his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Reyna and myself we want to thank you and your staff for your niceties and attention.


Hector P. Garcia M.D.

P.S. Enclosed you will find Dr. Cline's report and a copy of the General Discharge.