

July 23, 1970

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Major General W. P. Wilson
Chief, National Guard Bureau
Pentagon 2M394
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear General Wilson:

I frequently return to my district, and have been a frequent visitor to Guard units.

I am always surprised that there are so few men of minority extraction in the Guard; moreover, what few there are seem to be concentrated in the lower ranks. I almost never see a man of Mexican extraction serving as more than a sergeant, and Negroes are hardly represented in any capacity.

Yet these men have died like all others in defense of their country. Even today, men of Mexican extraction represent a grossly disproportionate share of combat casualties in Viet Nam. This was true in World War II, when these men won four of the seven Medals of Honor awarded to Texas men.

There can be no question that the Guard needs more minority group representation in all ranks. But from what I have seen, neither is there much question that those who are in the Guard, in my area at least, find that avenues to responsible positions are all but closed. I hope that you will provide one. This is a question I have raised before--five or more years ago, and it is a source of great frustration to me and the men affected that no progress seems to have been made to date.

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Gonzalez, M. C.