

COPY

January 13, 1949

My dear Friends:

I deeply appreciate your thoughtful telegram.

It was a privilege for me to assist in giving Private Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his faithful service to his country deserves.

My part was small, but I am proud that I could be of assistance.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

El Club Bougainvillea Social
Galveston, Texas

Re -- my longoria, felix reburial



LDC14 NL PD=GALVESTON TEX 12=

1949 JAN 13 AM 2 24

SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON=

WASHDC=

ON BEHALF OF OUR CLUB IN OUR COMMUNITY WE CONGRATULATE YOU
ON YOUR SERVICES RENDERED CONCERNING SOLDIER FELIX
LONGORIAS BURIAL OF THREE RIVERS TEXAS=
EL CLUB BOUGAINVILIA SOCIAL=

JAN 13 A.M.

January the Thirteenth

My dear Friend:

I have received a copy of the resolution adopted by your Post in regard to the regrettable incident at Three Rivers.

As you may know, I was able to make arrangements to have Pvt. Felix Longoria re-buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery at Washington where the other heroes of our nations wars lie buried. I was honored to have this share in securing for Felix Longoria the last rites befitting a hero of his stature.

The Members of your Post are to be commended for their alert and courageous concern for justice in this case.

With my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Ed Johnson, Commander
James Edmond Post No. 121
American Legion
Waco, Texas

hb bc
Army - Longoria, Pvt. Felix

JAN 18 A.M.

JAMES EDMOND POST NO. 121
AMERICAN LEGION
Waco, Texas

January 12, 1949

In General Meeting assembled, the James Edmond Post No. 121 and official representatives from James E. Robinson Post No. 440, January 11, 1949 at Legion Hall, 4th and Tennessee, Waco, Texas passed this resolution unanimously:

"WHEREAS, As members of an organization which originated during two World Wars, fighting for democracy, willingly offering our lives and limbs for freedom and justice to prevail in this United States of America; and

"WHEREAS, We have fought side by side with men of all races, creed and religion for the true principles of democracy inculcated in our Constitution giving all men a right to mutual respect; and

"WHEREAS, One of our Latin-American comrades has made the supreme sacrifice of giving his life honorably on the battle-field so that democracy shall prevail; and

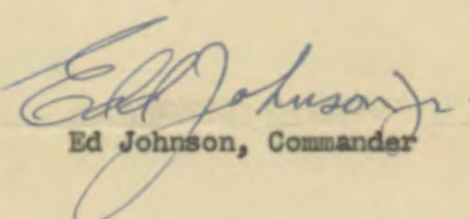
"WHEREAS, We hang our heads in shame for the un-American treatment of Threerivers Funeral Parlor in refusing to accept and do honor to this soldier's remains who has given his life so that we may live; now, therefore-

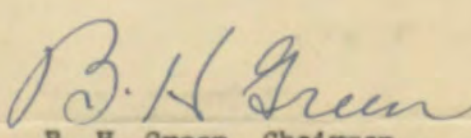
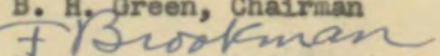
"Be It RESOLVED, That we vigorously condemn such conduct and demand immediate investigation and reprimand all responsible for this un-American act; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That the proper authorities insist that Threerivers Funeral Parlor receive the body of this hero and give him all the services with sympathy and care and with utmost respect to his family; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That the proper authority immediately appoint a government representative as escort to represent the honored remains and his family; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to all representatives in Congress of the United States, to all representatives in Texas Legislature, to the Governor and to the Mexican Representative of Friendly Relation.....


Ed Johnson, Commander


B. H. Green, Chairman

Fred Brookman, Co-Chairman

January the Thirteenth

My dear Friend:

Your letter today gave me new strength and encouragement as I start this morning of work.

I am very proud that you feel as you do about my small share in giving to Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which he so deserves. The spirit of your feeling on this matter is the kind of spirit which has made this country great.

I am particularly glad of course that you are now happy that you followed Miss Neathery's advice. I hope that my services at all times will measure up to your expectations.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Stonewall J. Smith
Farmersville, Texas

hb bc
Army - Longoria, Pvt. Felix

JAN 13 A.M.

FEDERATED METALS *Division*

AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY

9000 MARKET STREET ROAD

PHONE: WENTWORTH 3-2895

P. O. BOX 2534

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Jun. 12 1949.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
Washington Dc —

Hi — Yes, I voted for you simply
because Miss Gertrude Neathery of
Farmersville Texas asked me to do so.
Now I'm glad I did!

your ~~handing~~ ^{arranging} for the burial
of Felix Longoria of Three Rivers Texas
in the Arlington National Cemetery is
fine.

I'm a veteran of World War I,
and any man who fought for this
Country is good enough to be buried
with me, even if ^{he is} 100% black.

Sincerely

Stenwell J. Smith
Farmersville Texas —

January the Thirteenth

My dear Friend:

I was very proud to do what I could to secure for Felix Longoria the decent and Christian burial his service to America deserves.

The telegram from you and the Members of the Webb County Disabled American Veterans is one of which I shall always be proud. Your confidence in me gives me greater strength and encouragement, and I shall try with all of my ability and energy to live up to your great expectations.

With my deepest appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Juan C. Garza Gongora, Commander
Chapter 76, Disabled American Veterans
Laredo, Texas

hb bc
Army, Longoria, Pvt. Felix

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

(02)

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WZ079 PD=LAREDO TEX 13 1015A=

HON LYNDON B JOHNSON=

U S SENATOR SENATE BLDG=

1949 JAN 13 PM 12 06

1 JAN 13 A.M.

WEBB COUNTY CHAPTER 76 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SINCERELY
CONGRATULATES YOU IN YOUR PROMPT ACTION IN THREE RIVERS
INCIDENT STOP WE FEEL THAT EVERY VETERAN IN TEXAS HAS NOW A
SENATOR THAT WILL AT ALL TIMES PROTECT THEIR INTEREST AND
WELFARE STOP WE ARE PROUD OF YOU=

JUAN C GARZA GONGORA COMMANDER=

:76=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

January the Thirteenth

My dear Friends:

I was honored to have the opportunity to secure for Felix Longoria the burial which his magnificent service for democracy deserves.

As one who has seen war, I will do all in my power at anytime to see that these men who gave their lives in the service of their country are not plagued by the prejudices and bigotry of some individuals even beyond this life.

I deeply appreciate the telegram message from you. It gives me great strength and encouragement, and I shall certainly try at all times to be a Senator for all Texans.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

The Damas Pro Infancia Club

5320 L

Galveston, Texas

hb bc
Army - Longoria, Pvt. Felix

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•DA514

1942 JAN 12 PM 11 02

D•GYA494 NL PD=GALVESTON TEX 12=

LYNDON JOHNSON=

US SENATOR WASHDC=

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS ABOUT THE MEXICAN
SOLDIER WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THIS COUNTRY WE WISH TO THANK
YOU FOR RECOGNIZING THIS DISCRIMINATION WE ARE MOTHERS OF SONS
WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR=

THE DAMAS PRO INFANIA CLUB 5320 L=

JAN 13 A.M.

5320 L=•

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

January the Thirteenth

My dear Friend:

I was honored to have the opportunity to secure for Felix Longoria the burial which his magnificent service for democracy deserves.

Your telegram gave me strength and encouragement, and I am deeply grateful.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Felipe Mendoza, President
Sociedad Benito Juarez
Galveston, Texas

Nb bc
Army - Longoria, Pvt. Felix

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WESTERN UNION

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(15) • •

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WZ048 PD=GALVESTON TEX 13 930A=

1949 JAN 13 AM 11 19

SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON=

THE "SOCIEDAD BENITO JUAREZ" OF GALVESTON TEXAS ACKNOWLEDGES
THE GREAT SERVICES RENDERED IN THE "THREE RIVERS" AFFAIR=
FELIPE MENDOZA PRESIDENT=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

COPY

January 13, 1949

Gentlemen:

I very much appreciate your thoughtful message on my action in the Felix Longoria case.

My part was small, but I am proud that I could be of some assistance in securing for this American soldier the decent burial which his great service and sacrifice deserves.

It is reassuring to know of your interest and approval.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Bothwell Kane Post #21

American Legion

Fort Worth, Texas

Re - copy - Longoria, Felix reburial

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

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DAO 19

D•FWC064 NL PD=FTWORTH TEX 12=

1949 JAN 13 AM 3 00

SEN LYNDON B JOHNSON=

WASHDC=

ACTION TAKEN BY YOU REGARDING OUR BUDDY FELIX LONGORA DEEPLY

APPRECIATED BY ALL MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION=

BOTHWELL KANE POST #21 AMERICAN LEGION FORT WORTH TEXAS=

JAN 13 A.M.

: #2 1= ••

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

January 13, 1949

My dear Friend:

My part was small, but I am proud that I could be of some assistance in securing for Felix Longoria the decent burial which his great and faithful service deserves.

Also, I want you to know that I shall always cherish your wonderful telegram. It was one of the finest messages any man ever received.

With my deepest appreciation,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Eugene Sergi

3705 West Sixth

Fort Worth, Texas

hb - army longoria, felix submerial
return to luzz

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

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1949 JAN 12 PM 3 14

.WZ131 PD=FTWORTH TEX 12 115P=

SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON=

IN THE PICTORIAL ALBUM WHICH I TAKE TO MY GRAVE I WILL
PLACE YOU IN BETWEEN OUR ETERNAL DEMOCRATS JEFFERSON
AND F D ROOSEVELT FOR THE ACTION YOU HAVE TAKEN IN MEMORY
OF OUR BUDDIE FELIX LONGORIA=

=EUGENE SERGI=

3705 W. 6th

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

January 14, 1949

My dear Friend:

My part in securing a decent reburial for Felix Longoria was small, but I was very proud to do what I could to correct the obvious injustice of the unfortunate incident.

I appreciate very much your interest in this and want to thank you for your letter. I pray that this sort of thing will never occur again, anywhere.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. William Hayes

704 S. Sixth

Champaign, Ill.

Re -- my Felix Longoria

JAN 14 A.M.

January 13, 1949

Dear Sir:

Undoubtedly, the worst act of 1949 was committed in Three Rivers, Texas denying the burial of an American G.I. I would recommend the revoking of the license permitting this hyortician to practice. Certainly his ethics were an example of malpractice.

I was not personally in favor of bringing soldiers or sailors home but if they were they should be treated with honor. I am not a chronic letter writer and I am sure I have never written to anyone telling them what their business should be, however; this case was me beyond description.

Our custom here in Champaign is to have various members of our legion post conduct the ceremonies for veterans.

I realize you are a busy man you need not reply but I would be happy if you would use the harshest legal measures available

Yours truly yours,
William D. Hays



THE PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL

INCORPORATED 1946

44 WEST 56 ST., NEW YORK 19, N.Y. PLAZA 7-6684

"A scientific foundation dedicated as a living memorial to those who served with the armed forces of the United States in the Pacific"

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Honorable Henry L. Stimson

January 14, 1949

B JAN 16 A.M.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

A few days ago I read with interest and admiration of your action with regard to the Longoria family. The name is familiar as when I commanded the 5th Cavalry I had a Private Longoria in a regiment who had nine children, and as they were always wishing something I have never forgotten them.

I am taking this opportunity of writing to acquaint you with the Pacific War Memorial whose literature I enclose. You will soon receive a letter which I am sending to all members of the Congress to inform them of the existence of the Memorial because later on I am going to ask for legislation to implement its work - the essence of which is contained in this letter.

The Memorial was formed by a group of Pacific veterans warmly supported by ex-Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. To date it has been supported financially largely by the generosity of a few individuals. Our policy however is to put it on a more permanent foundation by soliciting members in the Memorial with the objective of a minimum of one hundred thousand members recruited from our potential of three million who served in the Pacific. You will appreciate that this is going to be a rather slow process and it is problematical just how many will respond for the reason that nearly everyone today is besieged with requests for money. Probably never in our history have there been so many drives. I am told there are fifty-six separate drives taking place in New York at the present time.

For that reason I have been turning over in my mind other means of obtaining solid financial support for the Pacific War Memorial, and I would like to present to you in confidence this thought and to ask your advice.

When the demobilization occurred there existed in the Army a tremendous number of non appropriated funds which had belonged to various officers' and non-commissioned officers' clubs and post exchanges. As I recall the total amount involved some fifty odd million dollars. The then Secretary of War, Honorable Robert P. Patterson, appointed a board of civilians to advise him of the disposition that should be made of this money. They recommended that twenty million dollars be turned in to the Treasury, which was done.

I have my eye now on the proportion of the twenty million that came out of the Pacific area. Naturally a bill would have to be introduced and the money reappropriated for the Pacific War Memorial. You will appreciate that this money does not really belong to the government as it came from the personal funds of officers and non-commissioned officers and soldiers. They had earned that money and chose to spend it at the clubs and post exchanges and hence it really belongs to them. It was of course impossible to return the appropriated shares to individuals upon demobilization and I presume that the solution Judge Patterson affected was as good as any that could be found at that moment.

With the establishment however of the Pacific War Memorial, which is an organization designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who died and served in the Pacific by means of continuous scientific research, it seems to me that it would be more than appropriate that some of the money earned by these men should not be rediverted to this useful and noble purpose. I feel sure that an appropriation would have the support of the veterans and I do not see how it could be challenged by any right thinking person.

Would you please give this matter some thought and let me have your views? Perhaps you might wish to talk it over with some of your comrades who fought in the war, of which I believe there are many in Congress. One of them, Mr. John F. Kennedy, is also a member of the Memorial. I have already written to Representative J. Caleb Boggs, also a member of the Memorial, along these same lines.

I expect to be in Washington Monday and Tuesday, and should like to call upon you.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Richardson, Jr.
Lieut.General, U.S.Army (Ret.)
President



Incorporated 1946

44 WEST 56th STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
PLaza 7-6684

DEFINITION

THE PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL IS A SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION for the advancement of knowledge through research and conservation in the Pacific Ocean Areas, and dedicated as a living memorial to all those who served in the armed forces of the United States in the Pacific. It has the full endorsement of the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council, government agencies, the scientific world, and of the Navy which has the responsibility for Island governments under the United States Trusteeship of the Pacific Islands.

ORIGIN

THE PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL ORIGINATED WITH A GROUP OF PACIFIC VETERANS who believe that, instead of the traditional monuments which commemorate war services, there should be established an organization to study the peoples and problems of the Pacific area, and especially to conserve its natural resources. The concept of this unique Memorial was placed before a distinguished group of Americans, both scientists and laymen, and received unanimous approval. The Pacific War Memorial was formally incorporated by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson in September, 1946.

PROGRAM

THE MEMORIAL PLANS TO:

- a) ESTABLISH PROGRESSIVELY AND MAINTAIN A SERIES OF MEMORIAL FIELD STATIONS on carefully selected Pacific islands offering the most fertile conditions for research in the natural, physical and social sciences; in tropical diseases; in new sources of food; and to make these Stations available to accredited scientists from universities, museums, and other scientific institutions. The Memorial has recently acquired from the Navy the Japanese scientific research building on the island of Koror in the Palaus to use as the first Field Station.
- b) ESTABLISH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREAS AND SANCTUARIES where the unique wildlife of the Pacific islands will be preserved. The small areas of original vegetation remaining on the island of Saipan have already been set aside as the first of these conservation areas.
- c) ESTABLISH MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS to permit qualified applicants to undertake or continue scientific studies in the Pacific.
- d) FACILITATE AND COORDINATE PACIFIC RESEARCH. By close cooperation with all government and civilian agencies with jurisdictions or interests in the Pacific, the Memorial hopes to bring about a continuous and coordinated survey of the Pacific in all its scientific aspects. By disseminating to the scientific world the results of important Pacific research projects, the Memorial will facilitate the application of such findings to the advancement of human welfare. Eventually it is planned to establish Memorial headquarters in Honolulu which will provide laboratory and other facilities for evaluating and distributing the results of the work done at the Field Stations.

MEANS

The directors of the Pacific War Memorial are soliciting memberships and funds to expand this important project. The ultimate goal is a \$10,000,000 endowment fund. All contributions to the Pacific War Memorial are deductible for income tax purposes.

Members will be periodically informed of the activities and progress of the Memorial and are cordially invited to visit the Memorial headquarters in New York City.

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PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL, INC. • 44 West 56th Street • New York 19, N. Y.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1948

A Memorial Which Will Serve

On Thursday of this week three years will have passed since Sept. 2, 1945, became that V-J Day which, in the history of World War II, marked formal climax of the war in the Pacific. In 1946 a group of veterans originated the idea of a memorial which would preserve the deeds and sacrifices of their comrades in the Pacific in a more than traditional monument of marble or bronze. Their plan, under the name of the Pacific War Memorial, has won national and international support. It is to establish "a living memorial devoted to the advancement of knowledge through research, conservation and study in the Pacific."

This plan of opening in the Pacific, as a memorial to the thousands who died there, new horizons for the benefit of mankind, is a wise, fitting and worthy project which, we believe, deserves the support it has gained and will receive. As the memorial association points out, much of the Pacific still rests an unexplored frontier of science. A large part of the area in which the war was fought had long been closed to investigation by the Japanese. Now, with this area an American responsibility, such plans as the memorial has made can find fulfillment in the coming years.

The Pacific War Memorial plans to establish stations to which research scientists will be sent and where fields crying for investigation will be studied. Public health and medicine, anthropology, oceanography, plant and zoological science—these and many more avenues of research will be covered. As much as possible field stations will be set up at points where Americans died in combat, and a memorial Pacific science center will be established in Honolulu.

The declared aim of the Pacific War Memorial, in its commemoration of the sacrifices of the dead, will preserve through coming generations a continuing service to the living. The memorial has headquarters at 44 West 56th Street, New York 19.

PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL

There is a definite place for structures and monuments of enduring stone or bronze to keep alive the memory of the men who have risked and oft-times given their all for sake of country. Even more appealing, however, to the cooperative sympathies of us all are living mementoes and activities of a dynamic character which perpetuate the remembrance we must always hold dear. Such an undertaking is that of the Pacific War Memorial, Inc., whose chairman is Archibald B. Roosevelt and whose president, Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr., U. S. A. (retired), advocates the observance of V-J Day as a milestone in the minds and hearts of the public rather than a new national holiday.

The organization proposes undertakings of service to mankind to commemorate the deeds of those who served in the Pacific. To this end it has the full endorsement of the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council, various government agencies and scientific bodies and of the Navy, whose responsibility the Island governments is. The memorial plans to establish a series of field stations or study points in the Pacific to which competent scientists will be sent for research in many fields. These include public health and medicine, education and social development, anthropology, agriculture and fisheries, oceanography, meteorology and plant and animal sciences. The first two stations will be established on the islands of Saipan and Koror, chosen last year by Professor Ripley of Yale University.

There are also plans to establish a Pacific science center in Honolulu as well as a memorial building to house the records of the men and units of the Pacific campaigns. The primary objective of the memorial is conservation of many forms of plant and animal life whose extinction was accelerated by the ruthless waste of war. Plans also include the establishment of memorial national parks and reserves where the wild life of the region may be preserved in its habitat. Many scientific rewards can be won by research and rehabilitation in the vast Pacific area. For example, the answer is yet to be found to the question why there is no malaria on Saipan, whereas it is prevalent on Guadalcanal and other islands of the Solomon group.

Opportunities for the suppression of island pests and the encouragement of beneficent plants and animals are many, and much is to be learned from the study of the natives of the Pacific; their languages, customs and blood groupings. The objectives of the Pacific War Memorial are manifold. We believe they will receive, as indeed they deserve, widespread public support.

NEWS MAGAZINE

Published Every Other Week from the Nation's Capital

APRIL 21, 1948

Pacific Memorial

The U.S. troops who "island-hopped" to Tokyo in 1941-45 did more than destroy an empire. They also discovered the Pacific, hitherto neglected by most Americans, including scientists.

One of the latter-day discoverers was Archibald Roosevelt (last living son of Theodore Roosevelt). Back in the U.S., Lt. Col. Roosevelt remembered the men with whom he had campaigned. He also remembered the unexplored vastness and richness of the Pacific.

From his memories, Col. Roosevelt formed the idea for a unique war memorial: a scientific foundation which would study the native groups, natural wealth, flora and fauna of the whole Pacific. Ultimately, the foundation might revive dying island cultures, find new riches and knowledge for our own society.

Funds. Roosevelt's proposal excited men like Henry L. Stimson, who called it "the most imaginative memorial which has been thought of." An organization was formally set up in 1946, entitled simply the Pacific War Memorial. Last week its directors were trying to raise \$200,000 (ultimate goal: \$10 million), to start the first two field stations, on Saipan and Koror, where scientists will study and try to preserve island wild life.

In time, the memorial will extend its activities (in co-operation with defense agencies and scientific groups) over all aspects of Pacific life.

Imported Plagues. Native tribes have been wiped out by European diseases; others (including some wards of

the U.S.) are now dying out. The memorial directors would like to help reverse this trend, and also discover why Pacific islanders seldom have certain diseases of civilization.

Many islands are ravaged by parasites and foreign organisms introduced by white men and Asiatics. The African landsnail and the rhinoceros beetle, for example, threaten the coconut-palm and the copra industry.

Anthropologists hope to solve basic mysteries about Pacific racial groups: Where did they come from? How much have they intermingled? Why did they settle on some islands, leaving others, just as favorable, unoccupied? Study of islands suitable for colonizing, measures to prevent deforestation and erosion, are also planned.

Undersea Treasure. Richer than the islands is the ocean itself. Called "the world's last unplumbed reservoir of proteins," the Pacific is also a vast mine of minerals we may someday need. Its fish life is little known, but includes immense supplies of edible species.

Evolutionists feel sure the Pacific hides many secrets which will shed light on the growth of life. Some want to study the relationship between land, sea and fresh-water snails; others, the distribution of birds, which have evolved differently on different islands.

The memorial's directors do not plan their own scientific staff: They want to provide funds and facilities for scientists working on their own projects or a university program. Backing has been enthusiastic from many veterans, and from wartime officials. The parent of one U.S. soldier who died in the Pacific wrote: "This is the kind of memorial my son would have approved of—continuing effort toward sensible ends."



U. S. Navy

Pacific Islander. The next invasion will bring scientists. (SEE: Memorial)

And I if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.—St. John, XII, 32.

(The text for today is suggested by Rev. H. W. B. Donegan, D.D., rector, St. James Episcopal Church, New York. The next text will be suggested by Rev. Gordon H. Baker, D.D., pastor, Lenox Rd. Baptist Church, Brooklyn.)

The Pacific Ocean—History's Greatest War Memorial



UNTO THE DEPTHS—A chaplain reading burial services for Marines who died on Saipan and were

buried at sea from a troop transport. Buddies of the slain Leathernecks acted as pallbearers.

Official U. S. Marine Corps Photograph.



THE JAPS GO DOWN—THE FLAG GOES UP—Scene at Saipan when the Japanese accepted defeat and the Stars and Stripes were raised.

Official U. S. Marine Corps Photograph.

'Where the Heroes Lie'

AS A CONSEQUENCE of the Pacific War, this country became responsible for a vast and strange area of the surface of the earth.

That area is a series of islands and archipelagoes stretching from New Guinea and the Solomons to the Philippines and Japan.

None of these spots of land was ever important for its population, for its resources or for its territorial expanse.

But all of them were important to us after Pearl Harbor because the Japanese had made fortresses of them in their plans of conquest, and each of them had to be reduced or isolated by American forces before our victorious campaigns could be carried into Japan itself.

And even before the war, these same unguarded islands were important to mankind, partly for scientific and meteorological reasons, and partly because many of them were pestholes of endemic disease, breeding spreading pestilences to endanger distant continents.

By the fortunes of war, and a determination in the United Nations, these Pacific islands have become American territory, under a perpetual trusteeship.

We need them for our future security and since we have them, we must know what to do with them.

Furthermore, a moral obligation rests upon us to provide a suitable remembrance for the American soldiers, sailors and Marines who fought and died upon and around these very islands.

To meet appropriately this consideration, "The Pacific War Memorial" has been founded.

The organization includes among its leaders the eminent commanders of our forces in the Pacific, with distinguished diplomats and others.

V-J Day, which falls on the fourteenth of August, is its anniversary date.

It purposes to keep alive the precious memory of our war dead by making the entire Pacific War area that has come into our possession their monument as well as their tomb, in constant cooperation with research specialists and with our defense authorities.

It describes itself accordingly as—

"A scientific foundation dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to those who served with the armed forces of the United States in the Pacific."

Under its plans, "The Pacific War Memorial" will make the once embattled and plague-ridden islands outposts of civilization, of health, of security, of liberty and of peace.

In the adjoining columns on this page, one of the heroes of the Pacific campaigns—Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson—presents, as President of the Memorial, its own story.

The Hearst Newspapers are glad to commend that story to all Americans.

V-J Day—'Lest We Forget'

By Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson (Retired).

Former Commander of the Army Forces in Pacific Ocean Areas (1943-1946) and Military Governor of Hawaii, President of The Pacific War Memorial.

THREE years ago on August 14th, 1945, the cocky Japs after more than three years and eight months of war were brought to their knees—their Nippon knees—by American arms.

Two main thrusts had been aimed at the Japanese Empire from the beginning of the war: one by MacArthur's forces from the Southwest Pacific area pointing northeast through the Philippines to Tokyo, and the other by Nimitz's Army, Navy and Marine Forces through the Central Pacific to the Marianas, then Northeast through the Bonins and Okinawa to Tokyo.

Relentlessly our forces hammered at the outer Japanese defenses which successively crumbled under the tremendous power of our weapons and the resourceful fighting of our men.

While MacArthur was cleaning up the Philippines and Halsey was raiding the Japanese Empire with his carriers, Nimitz was subduing Okinawa, and Espat and Laffay were carrying on devastating bombings of the forty main cities of Japan under the strategic direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Tenth Army of my command was given the task under Buckner of conquering Okinawa and acquiring bases at the front door of Japan, and especially of Kyushu where the first landings of the invasion were to have been made.

Never once in the whole history of the march across the Pacific did we suffer a reverse, but step by step, in accordance with a rigid schedule, we annihilated the Japanese defenses in the Gilberts, the Marshalls, the Marianas, and the Palaus.

Proceeding these victories the Japanese had been repulsed and driven from the Solomons in the South Pacific by Halsey.

Similarly MacArthur drove them from New Guinea, New Britain, Halmahera and the Philippines, always going where they were not, thereby saving time and life and having Fortune smile upon his efforts.

And then when all forces were being assembled for the great invasion the Japs felt that they had had enough.

They had known it for a long time but the dramatic use of the atomic bomb caused them quickly to throw in the sponge on August 14th, 1945.

Thus was V-J Day born.

This brief statement all sounds very glamorous but it can never convey to those who were not in that area what went on behind the scenes to make that victory possible.

War is made up of planning, decisions, and execution.

That too sounds simple until elaborated. But it was all done by human beings, men from the cities and from the country, most of whom had been totally ignorant of the profession of arms until they came under the tutelage of the professionals and from

whom they quickly learned how to beat a vicious enemy.

The Pacific problem was unique and quite different from the war in Europe due to the vast ocean distances.

To overcome this ever-present obstacle an enormous amount of anticipatory planning was necessary and great foresight and a profound knowledge of logistics were required.

But before we could assume the offensive in the Pacific a tremendous amount of work had to be done.

Ports such as Honolulu were expanded from a tonnage capacity of 75,000 tons per month to 675,000 tons, rivaling Liverpool or Calcutta.

New ports were created on every island that was captured and existing ports were rebuilt.

The Honolulu Navy Yard was a beehive of activity expanding to meet every contingency of the Navy's needs, especially to care for the wounded ships and restore them to duty as soon as humanly possible.

The Honolulu Air Depot correspondingly grew like a mushroom to support the ever increasing air forces coming into the Pacific. Destroyers, carriers, submarines, vessels of every description began to arrive in incredible numbers and in a short space of time after requisition.

In both the Southwest Pacific and in our middle Pacific area, roads, docks, ports, harbors, warehouses, railroads, barracks, depots, ammunition stockpiles of vast proportions, radar stations, hospitals, motor parks, training areas, air fields, hangars, were built to mention only a few of the necessary appurtenances of active operations.

They represented untold numbers of man hours expended and sometimes at the rate of twenty-four hours a day.

No union hours were in effect for our men, and there were no strikes, sit down or otherwise.

Each man was an inspired patriot.

The vast Pacific Ocean distances demanded requisition of material and men at least six months in advance of probable need.

Quick action was an essential. Once in the battle of Okinawa, I received an urgent request from the Tenth Army for 81 mm shells weighing 8 to 12 pounds each. The great distance of 5400 miles from Honolulu to Okinawa made the use of surface transportation impossible.

But my staff mobilized every bit of available space on Army Transport Command planes going west and flew in 36,000 rounds of mortar ammunition on time.

But none of these material accomplishments can compare to the courage and devotion to duty of our men.

Whether they belonged to the Army, the Navy, the Marines or the Air Forces, one and all they fought like men who knew that their freedom was involved and they were in no mood to abdicate their Bill of Rights



THE PACIFIC WAR AREA—SITE OF THE PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL

in favor of the despotism of the Japanese military clique.

They who went into the combat knew the risks involved.

I shall never forget the faces of the men deep in the holds of the transports when shoving off for the combat area.

The solemnity of their thoughts was stamped all over their countenances, trying to reconnoiter the future and what the Fate held in store for each.

Once engaged, whether on land or on sea, whether subjected to the enemy mortar fire on the beach, or the attack of a kamikaze plane on your carrier, or the bombing of your own airfield, it was always the same. They did their duty to the fullest.

Many were killed, others maimed and handicapped for life so that we who escaped may enjoy the remaining years left to us on this earth.

How then can we ever forget what we owe the men who died on these remote islands whose names are unknown to the majority of Americans!

V-J Day should be as sacred to us as the Fourth of July for it is a continuation of the spirit of that commemorative day in our history. It is the climax of the fight for freedom in the Pacific War.

Just so that we shall not forget these men, a number of veterans of the Pacific have organized the Pacific War Memorial. Its author was Colonel Archibald Roosevelt, the only living son of "Teddy."

He served in MacArthur's area. Instead of placing stone monuments to their memory on the islands, the Pacific War Memorial is set up as a living memorial in the form of field stations on some of the islands for scientific research.

We who were in that region know something of the diseases that afflicted our troops as well as the natives, of the innumerable insect pests that destroyed the vegetation, and of the treachery of the weather so hazardous to flying.

One of the objects of the Pacific War Memorial is to know as much as we can about these matters especially as these islands are now under an exclusive trusteeship of the United Nations.

We shall always keep them as they form the outer bastion of our security in the Pacific.

The Memorial hopes to set aside parks for conservation where the animals and the plants may grow as nature intended so that they may be studied by our scientists.

The Pacific is a vast mine of minerals that we may some day need.

Its fish life, still unknown to a large extent, includes immense supplies of edible species.

This imaginative Memorial can succeed only if it is supported financially by the American people because it must depend for its development on contributions and on the dues from members.

Anyone can become a member who desires to record the sacrifices of our men in the Pacific, by applying to the offices of the Memorial at 44 West 56th Street, N. Y. It offers to the many Foundations of this country an exceptional chance to devote some of their funds for scientific research and it is hoped that everyone who is interested in this functional living tribute to our men who died and served in the Pacific Ocean Areas will give the Memorial generous support.



When disillusioned U. S. troops took islands like Koror from the Japs, most were homesick—but not Sgt. Hill.

By JOSEPH RAITI

WHEN SGT. PETER J. HILL was fighting with the amphibious engineers in the Pacific area, some of his co-workers classified him as a sad sack. This underlining opinion came from fellow soldiers who couldn't understand why Sgt. Hill usually had a kind word for the islands.

Hill, no longer a sergeant but now a scientist, explains that while most of the gripers were looking around for Dorothy Lamour, he was studying the islands strictly from a scientific angle, and found them fascinating. Today, more than three years later, the last thing most of the ex-GIs with Pacific combat experience wants to see is a Pacific island. But today, one in a million, the 25-year-old Hill is on his way back to the Pacific area for more studying. His bride is with him, and they will spend a year on the little island of Koror, in the Palau group.

The Hill family and several tons of equipment are going to the three-square-mile island under the sponsorship of the Pacific War Memorial, Inc., founded two years ago by Col. Archibald Roosevelt, son of the late Teddy. The foundation's purpose is to study native groups, natural wealth, flora and fauna of the entire Pacific. Dedicated as a living memorial to the men who served in the Pacific during World War II, it has been endorsed by the Navy and scientific agencies.

Hill is an ecologist; that's an expert biologist who deals with the mutual relations between organisms and their environment. He was studying at the University of Michigan when asked by the directors of the memorial to open the first of several scientific stations in the vast and little known Pacific area.

Koror was selected as the initial base of operations because it has an unusual amount of plant and animal life due to its nearness to the larger Philippine Islands.

ONE IN A MILLION (He WANTS to Go Back)



Photo by Red Hixon

Peter J. Hill shows his bride the lonely Pacific island where they will live for the next year while doing scientific research. Hill served in this area as GI during war.

About 60 Americans, mostly Navy personnel and their families, will be on hand to greet the Hills. Approximately 1,000 natives also live on the island.

"As far as scientists are concerned, countless islands in the Pacific are virgin territory," Hill says, "although many have been charted for military use. There's a lot to be done botanically, anthropologically, and zoologically. The Palau group is the most complex of all the Micronesian Islands, and every buttercup will be of interest to U. S. scientists. As part of my work on Koror, I will study its economic problems. For instance, I know that the island has a certain type of beetle which has ruined crops, and I'm going to try to raise a species of parasite wasp which will eliminate it."

Koror was one of the many islands under Japanese rule during the war. If Japanese scientists did any research there, their records were lost in the shuffle.

THE Hills will convert a former Japanese meteorological building into a combination house and laboratory.

"We probably won't study the snakes, spiders, lizards and insects much at first," Hill predicts, "because we'll be too busy moving them out so that we can move in."

Mrs. Hill, a student of botany and an accomplished illustrator, met her husband when she was working at the University of Michigan. She's never been west of Chicago, and is thrilled over the idea of keeping house in the tropics.

"We have one big advantage," she says, "we won't have to spend the first few months of our married life looking for an apartment."

When their year in the Pacific has expired, the Hills expect to come back and make a complete report of their findings. If the memorial's \$10,000,000 fund-raising campaign is successful, then they will go back for more study.

At least that's the way they feel right now.

January the Fourteenth

My dear Friend:

My secretary, Walter Jenkins, has told me of your thoughtfulness in offering to make space available for the family of Felix Longoria.

I have no information about when the funeral may be or what the plans of the family are for coming here. However, I do want to congratulate you and express my personal appreciation for your considerate and heart-warming spirit of generosity.

Personally, I was proud to have a share in clearing the injustices which befall the Longoria family. It is comforting to know that you feel the same.

With my warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Ray Longoria Garcia
1256 S. 28th St.
Arlington, Virginia

hb bc
Army - Longoria, Pvt. Felix

January 14, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your telegram.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With my deepest appreciation,

sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Reuben Porras

American Legion Post #495

Dallas, Texas

Re - my Felix Longoria

January 14, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you and Mr. Porras to send such a kind message. I hope you will express my appreciation to all members of your Post.

I was proud to have the opportunity to contribute in some measure to providing for Felix Longoria the burial which his great, loyal service deserves.

With my deepest appreciation,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Francisco X. Luna, Commander

American Legion Post #495

Dallas, Texas

hb - army longoria, felix

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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D•LLA202 LONG NL PD=DALLAS TEX 13=

JAN 14 AM

HON LYNDON JOHNSON JUNIOR SENATOR FROM TEXAS=

WASHDC=

WE WERE DEEPLY GRIEVED BY THE DEPLORABLE INCIDENT OF INJUSTICE AND DISCRIMINATION PRACTICED IN A SMALL SOUTH TEXAS TOWN AGAINST ONE OF OUR FELLOW VETERANS WHO PAID WITH HIS LIFE FOR OUR FREEDOM. HOWEVER, THE PROMPT ACTION WHICH YOU TOOK TO REMEDY THE WRONG AND BRING HONOR TO THIS VETERAN AND HIS BELOVED ONES MERITS THE HIGHEST COMMENDATION. WE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION LATIN AMERICAN POST 495 DALLAS TEXAS WANT TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR TAKING THIS COURSE WHICH SHOWS YOUR GREAT QUALITIES AS A STATESMAN, AS A VETERAN, AND AS A MAN=

REUBEN PORRAS POST ADJUTANT AND FRANCISCO X
LUNA POST COMMANDER=

495=...

January 15, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves. The Texas newspapers have carried the story fully.

With my deepest appreciation,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Gordon D. Hall

90-08 189th Street

Hollis 7, New York

Re -- army Longoria, Felix

JAN 15 4:W

90-08 189th Street
Hollis 7, New York
January 15, 1949

Honorable Lyndon D. Johnson
Senator from Texas
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

I wish to commend you most heartily for the action taken in the recent controversy involving Felix Longoria, late private, Infantry, Army of the United States.

You have demonstrated most clearly to the people of the United States and to the people of the world, that while prejudice exists, there exists also, a determined will to combat this evil.

The action of the undertaking parlor in the tiny town of Three Rivers is most lamentable. I urge you therefore, in the interest of justice and humanity to issue a strong statement to the press in and around the town of Three Rivers. The New York Times carried the story in a "special" release, but I fear that the good people of Texas might not have had the opportunity to read of this.

I fervently hope that your future action in the Senate of the United States will reflect such generous democratic spirit. You are off to a magnificent start! Again - CONGRATULATIONS!

Sincerely yours,

Gordon D. Hall
Gordon D. Hall

January 15, 1949

My dear Friend:

I appreciate so much your thoughtfulness in writing such a kind and interesting letter. I was very glad to do what I could to secure for Felix Longoria the hero's burial he deserved.

Unfortunately, a United States Senator has no voice in deciding what novels will be issued from private publishing houses. I do hope, however, that you will soon be able to find a publisher willing to take an interest in your writings.

With my best regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Lorenz W. Strangeman
616 Melrose North, Apt. 5
Seattle 2, Washington

bb - amy longoria, felix

Lorenz W. Strangeman
616 Melrose North Apt 5
Seattle 2, Washington

JAN 15 A.M.
JAN 1

January 12, 1949

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senator From Texas
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I am in full accord with your most unselfish devotion to a just and humanitarian cause; notably the wholehearted support and reassurance by you, for the honorable interment of the body of one of our heroic boys (Felix Longoria) who unselfishly gave his all for God and Country, that we, those living might strive to make this a better world for all people to live and let live, regardless of race, religion or kind. My very being is alive and pulsing with this selfsame spirit of human devotion and brotherhood.

As men, dear senator, you and I have much, yes more than mere words can produce, to insure the devotion of our lives to continue furthering the cause of justice and honorable decency of and for our fellow men.

At this moment, it is my desire to inform you, sir, that my dear Mother is a native Texan of Austin; and also my wifes folks (Robert J. Crowe) reside in Longview. It has been my great pleasure sir, to have known our beloved and distinguished CACTUS JACK GARNER, when he was our Vice President. Might I add that, I had a most friendly visit some years ago with the then Governor of your great state, the Honorable W. Lee ODaniels. All in all, sir, my wife and I have traversed the great Lone Star State many times over the years, and expect to do it again in the near future. Ah! Yes! it is just like the old time wranglers used to say, "the Chisholm Trail is still the greatest road on earth. Yessiree! all the way from Laredo to Dodge City, podner."

Might I add now, sir, that for some unknown reason several publishers have recently turned me down on two novels I have authored, and I believe it is purely because, they, "the novels", are basically Mexican in character, background and logic, but filled with human devotion and brotherhood. The intermingling of romance of our own Norte-Americanos and Mexicans is typically human and unselfish. None-the-less my reviews were very satisfactory, but alas! no publishers.

For your information, dear Senator, I have had correspondence with many of your distinguished colleagues over the years, and too, my wife and I have lived, traveled and enjoyed our wonderful sojourns thruout Mexico. Among our "Amigo Mios" south of the border, we hold dear to our hearts the Honorable Miguel Aleman and his distinguished colleague, El Lic. Andres E. Alemany.

Dear Senator if you could find any way, means, or enlightenment to offer me, or assist me to have my novels published, I will be forever grateful to you, for again causing to be brought before our own American people the true letter and the spirit manifest of what really constitutes the human tolerance and devotion of Man, be what he may by cause of birth, no matter what land, no matter what race, no matter what religion, because in the eyes of God, WE are all his children.

Your most gracious reply is awaited.

Sincerely yours as one of the stalwarts
of DEMOCRACY IN ACTION,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lorenz W. Strangeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lorenz W. Strangeman

January 17, 1949

Dear Judge:

Deep down in my heart I appreciate more than words can express your letter of the 13th, telling me how you feel about my actions in the Longoria case. I am proud and I am glad that I could do this, although my part was small.

I pray that I will always measure up to what you have said of me. In my years here in the Senate I hope that I can serve all Texans, from the mightiest to the lowliest, without fear or hesitation.

The clippings which you sent were very helpful to me, and if any more appear in the Valley papers I hope you will rush them up here. Also let me know how the people in the Valley feel about this.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Judge Oscar C. Dancy
Cameron County
Brownsville, Texas

Me as
was-Longoria, Felix

JAN 15 A.M.

BOYNTON H. FLEMING, SHERIFF
R. T. AGAR, TAX ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR
F. T. GRAHAM, COUNTY ATTORNEY
CHAUNCEY S. REID, DISTRICT CLERK
MRS. W. R. JONES, TREASURER
JAS. D. KOONCE, COUNTY SCHOOL Supt.



OSCAR C. DANCY, COUNTY JUDGE
TED HUNT, PRECINCT NO. 1, PORT ISABEL
FRED RECIO, PRECINCT NO. 2, BROWNSVILLE
A. D. BOWIE, PRECINCT NO. 3, SAN BENITO
A. A. KIMMELL, PRECINCT NO. 4, HARLINGEN
H. D. SEAGO, COUNTY CLERK
L. A. BAUER, COUNTY AUDITOR

CAMERON COUNTY

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

January 13, 1949

PERSONAL

Hon. Lyndon Johnson
U. S. Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

I take a personal interest in the fine work you did in arranging for the burial of Private Felix Longoria in Arlington. "I told you so" is about the finest sentence in the English language.

During the recent campaign, I did^{not} have to tell you these Latin-Americans that you were their friend because you had demonstrated it when you had headed the N.Y.A. in Texas.

Now, it gives me a sense of personal importance to know that you have vindicated every word that I said about you. Of course, there may be a reaction on the other side, but I have too much confidence in the good sportsmanship and Christian feeling of the good people of Texas to believe that even as many as 5% of the people will not applaud your courage to do honor to one who gave all he had -- his precious life -- that you and myself and the balance of us might have Democracy.

I^{am} enclosing you copy of letter which I had dictated to Honorable Thomas R. Sutherland, Secretary of the Good Neighbor Commission, and I am sending to Mr. Sutherland and others a copy of this letter.

I have heretofore sent you a carbon copy of my talk which I delivered in behalf of you and President Truman Saturday before the November election. I decided to put it on the mimeograph and am enclosing you a mimeographed copy.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar C. Dancy
County Judge

OCD/ssm

January 13, 1949

Hon. Tom Sutherland, Sec'y.,
Good Neighbor Commission
Austin, Texas

Dear Tom:

I am enclosing you clipping of an Editorial in the Valley Morning Star of yesterday which explains itself.

I very much approve and endorse this editorial. As you know, I was on the first Good Neighbor Commission; and, if they had never put it on the payroll, possibly I am egotistical enough to believe I would have stayed on it for though it was the most dangerous thing politically that could be handed to a man in politics, I appreciated the confidence of Governor Stevenson in putting me on.

I don't know how to express my deep regret that this happened, yet at the same time, I am glad it did not happen in my county though bad things did happen in my county.

I would like to have some information which you doubtless can furnish me right off the reel or can get for me. My recollection is that Cameron County was the last County in Texas on which they had to place the draft to get our proper quota. I would like to know if this was true.

I was here in World War #1 when our Latin-American boys flocked to the other side. It was not that they lacked courage, but they were sore - but, thanks to the Good Neighbor Policy which was really promoted by Secretary Stinson but carried out by Cordell Hull and the great man who sleeps at Hyde Park, in World War #2, this situation was exactly reversed and actually, citizens from our Neighboring Republic flocked to this side to get in our Army. Two out of three of the medals of Congress for this Valley were won by Latin Americans - one by a Mexican citizen and the do other, though born in the Valley, both of his parents were from Mexico.

J-42

I have understood that of twelve living holders of the Medal of Congress in Texas, that six were held by Anglo Americans, five by Latin Americans and one by a pure-blood Indian. I hope it will not be too much trouble for you to give me definite information about this.

I have already gone on record with my Senator for adequate appropriation for your body and especially for the confirmation of Hon. R. E. Smith as Chairman. I understand that the chairman alone has to be confirmed.

Thanking you for the information requested, I am,

Yours very truly,



Oscar C. Dancy
County Judge

OCD/sen

CC: Hon. R. E. Smith, Chairman
Good Neighbor Commission
Second National Bank Bldg.,
Houston, Texas

Hon. Rogers Kelly
State Senator
Edinburg, Texas

THE FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANTIAL COPY OF
POLITICAL SPEECH DELIVERED BY OSCAR C. DANCY

OVER KGBS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1948

AT 8 P. M.

FOLKS:

If I could properly present the true facts as to what the Roosevelt-Truman administration has done, is doing, and is preparing to do for this Valley, I feel that, regardless of previous political affiliations, that you would go to the polls Tuesday, and vote almost unanimously for Harry Truman, Alben Barkley, and Lyndon Johnson.

Daily you hear someone say that a Democratic administration never did anything for us. I make the positive assertion that the Roosevelt-Truman Administration has done more for Texas in General, and this Valley in Special, than all other administrations, Democratic and Republican, since Texas was admitted to the Union.

Have we forgotten the depression? Have we forgotten when this whole country hit the bottom, but that this Valley fell far below the bottom? We had everything the matter with us that other sections had, and then two other factors that made us the worst hit section under the flag.

First: We had no market. Our products, hardly paid the cost of harvesting, for that labor was unemployed; and when employed, had such low wages that they couldn't buy the fine fruits and vegetables that grow in this Valley. People can exist on corn bread and branch water, but to buy the real vittles, that we produce, they must have decent wages, or other income.

Secondly: We had every kind of bonded debt that could be thought of, and on top of that, a huge private debt - everybody owed everybody and "nobody had nothing to pay nobody with." The huge water district debt, drawing interest at six per cent; was like a millstone around our necks.

Now, listen to me while I talk Valley facts; I am not talking through my hat, because I lived through it, and was a humble member of the lobby that put over the law for re-financing you grainage, irrigation, and levee bonds.

Being a Texas Democrat, I was one of the contact men to see Mr. Garner. It was obvious that Mr. Wagner prominent California Republican, was the proper contact man to see Presidents Coolidge and Hoover.

Calvin, the cautious, said very little, but promised nothing and kept his promise. Later Mr. Wagner went to Mr. Hoover, who did not quite throw him out of the white-house; but Mr. Hoover not only refused to help, but very arrogantly, told Mr. Wagner he would veto the bill if it got on his desk. Now, that is the treatment that the Valley got from the Republicans.

Mr. Wagner then went up to Albany to see Governor Roosevelt, then candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. Roosevelt became convinced; and, on October 30, 1932, by telegram committed himself to the policy. "Yours truly" nailed a copy of that telegram to every water district, not only in the Valley, but in the entire State.

The promise of the candidate Roosevelt became the performance of Roosevelt the President, who got this put over as a rider on another bill, during that wondrous first hundred days of his administration enabling the refunding of our water District bonds, saving close to two-thirds of your tax burdens to carry such bonds, the gross principal for the Valley being around 25 million dollars. Is that Chicken feed?

Yes, and it helped the bond holder, because he got fifty cents for his bonds that had no market. It helped the holder of idle money

(over)

to get interest, backed by the best security in the world, our Federal Government. It was like the Old Time Religion-it was good for everybody. Why, even Cameron County saved close to a million, in refunding its flood control bonds, being the only county in the U. S. that so did.

Then there is our Levee System, costing when finished about thirteen million dollars, yet saving its entire cost to Valley farmers in one flood, in September, 1944 - yet denounced by the Republicans as Roosevelt waste.

Then there is the Brownsville port, for which we got 45% grant, thus guaranteeing a port, that has saved its entire cost time and time again since construction, enabling the navigation District fathers to make a bon-fire of one million six hundred thousand dollars of your bonds.

And what about the Intra-Coastal Canal, a Roosevelt measure? Joe Martin, then minority leader, was the only Republican who voted for it in the House; and George Aiken, that grand Liberal from Vermont, the only Republican who voted for it in the Senate. So many reactionary professional southerners voted with the Republicans, that even with Mr. Aiken's vote, it was a tie which Vice President Henry Wallace broke in our favor. I hold no brief for Henry Wallace; but let's be fair. Without his vote, we would have no intra-coastal canal.

And had it not been for the Hon R. B. Creager, who got some Republican Senators to stay away and not vote there would have been no tie for Henry Wallace to break.

Now, a few words about LYNDON JOHNSON: I unhesitatingly say that, in my opinion, he is the hardest-working, "can-doingest" and "go-gettingest" member in either the Senate or the House. We are fortunate to have him as our next Senator, as there is not a more water-minded man in the entire United States.

I also state that in my opinion, no man was ever more honestly elected than Lyndon Johnson, in the Democratic Primaries, even though by only 87 votes. And no man in Texas has been the victim of more cruel and malicious persecution and smearing than Lyndon Johnson.

I doubt if, in Texas politics, there has ever been played cheaper peanut politics than that played in the Jim Wells contest by Coke Stevenson and his lawyers, all of whom have had high honors from the Democratic Party in Texas.

Coke is a good lawyer; and he and his attorneys knew that the Federal Courts had no jurisdiction. It did not take a smart lawyer to know that. They all knew that Judge Whit Davidson had no more jurisdiction in that case than Oscar Dancy, the County Judge of Cameron County.

Get this folks: The U. S. Court of Appeals is composed of Judge Hutchinson and two other outstanding judges - all Anti-New Dealers, who unanimously held that the Federal Court had no jurisdiction. The bar of this Valley knew Judge Hutchinson to be a judge of unquestioned integrity and outstanding ability, who would go down the line and do his duty as he saw it. I understand that the other two judges are of the same high calibre. Let me emphasize that their decision was unanimous.

The eight members of the Supreme Court of the United States, composed of Republicans and Democrats, New Dealers, and Anti-New Dealers, unanimously uphold Judge Black, that Judge Davidson's court had no jurisdiction.

They all knew that the Federal Court had no jurisdiction, and that they had no case in the State Court, which did have jurisdiction. They knew they could not get Coke on the ballot, so their objective was, if possible, bluff their way to keep Lyndon off the ballot - or try to so smear him that, through the big controlled oil press,

(over)

they could make enough honest Democrats believe that there was fraud, so that they would elect their big Oil Republican candidate Mr. Porter.

Coke is now fighting on the outside. Four years ago, he fought from the inside; George Butler, the nephew-in-law of Jesse Jones, who, as State Chairman, tried to switch the electoral vote of this State from Roosevelt and Truman four years ago, was put in by Coke Stevenson.

Coke after holding office for twenty years through Democratic votes, having held the office of Governor longer than any other Governor in this State, and who asked for an invitation this year, and failing, he now commits the crime of fratricide—a 64-dollar word meaning "knifing your brother in the back." For my part, I will not listen to the advice of a man, who, after sucking the Democratic teat for 20 years, says 'Cut it off', when it is taken from him.

Coke and his attorneys complained that they did not have time to get the case tried in the State courts. They know and every lawyer in Texas knows that contested election cases are given precedence over everything else. They also know that if you didn't like the looks of the District Judge in the county where the alleged fraud was, that you can try such cases in the District Courts of Travis County, which county has three of the finest district Courts of Travis County, which county has three of the finest district judges in this State, one of them an appointee of Coke Stevenson.

Fred Rocio, here in Cameron County, got his case tried. Of course that was the first Primary. But out in Brown County, they had a run-off in the County Judge's race, in the same August Primary that Lyndon and Coke had their race they got their case tried in the District Court right now, and I am quite positive that the case went to the court of civil appeals. That contest between the county judge candidates showed that there had been certified 466 illegal votes more than Coke should have had, in that overwhelming Stevenson County, or more than twice the claimed irregularity in Jim Wells County.

The Texas election Bureau is not a legal set-up, but a voluntary set-up of the newspapers of the State, to get quick returns. The returns are furnished by tired, over-worked election officers, purely as an accommodation, and errors often slip in; and it is but natural for anyone who knows elementary arithmetic, that such errors are in the hundreds. Such error happened in the Senate race in 1942. In those July primaries, press reports showed a mistake of 100 votes, an honest mistake, if you please—against me in the report of said election which was properly corrected when the Executive Committee met and canvassed the votes.

Down in Jim Wells County, I understand the fifteen member executive committee was about equally divided between Stevenson and Johnson men, yet the members unanimously supported the returns, giving Lyndon two hundred votes more than were given to the election Bureau.

A new Chairman and a new executive Committee, a majority of whom were strong Stevenson men wanted to recanvass Box 13, and make a new Certificate after they came in following the August primaries. The boxes, etc., had been pawed over by Stevenson men, and had been kept in the hands of a bitter Lyndon Johnson enemy. Lyndon, very properly, got an injunction in the State Courts against that kind of procedure. Coke did not appeal. He had plenty of time to appeal; but he knew he didn't have a leg to stand on.

Chambers County gave 100 more votes to Stevenson than originally reported, and their certificate did not go in until two days later than the Jim Wells certificate. Galveston County went nearly two to one for Coke; but the Grand Jury found that there were two thousand fraudulent votes. I am reliably informed that they even voted the Tombstones, down there. But it took the Dallas Yankees to do the real job — they padlocked the Lyndon Johnson lever on one of their voting machines, so that it would not register the Johnson votes.

In my opinion, Lyndon Johnson was stolen out in the Martin Dies

(over)

territory in 1941 - but Big Oil slipped a trick this time, and let Lyndon get in. It is my well considered opinion that an honest count would show Lyndon Johnson many thousands ahead. And if the Texas Regulars and Dixiecrats had kept out of the primaries, where they had no business, his majority would have been close to two to one.

Friends, in conclusion, let me say the Democratic Party is our Party. We can't help ourselves by voting for the Republicans. Their policies are dictated by the cupidity of Wall Street and other Northern moneybags. Vote against them. We can't help ourselves by committing fratricide (knifing our brothers in the back), and voting for the States rights' party. Vote against them.

There is only one place for them--in the Democratic Column. Let's fight our battle within the family, and, once the family has decided, we all will all stick together and present a united front against those who certainly will not give a sympathetic ear to our problems. Vote the Democratic ticket straight next Tuesday. Thank you, folks.

ADIOS

"HINDSIGHT REFLECTIONS"

It is comparatively easy to write out a 30-minute talk, but when you tone it down in 15 minutes, you have a job ahead.

In one of my prepared drafts, I referred to the fact that possibly this Valley had a bigger proportion of people with wrinkled bellies under Hoover who cussed the income tax under Roosevelt and Truman than any other section in the United States.

I did leave out a few paragraphs copied here because I don't want anybody to have any doubt about what I think about the matter. Same is as follows:

"Roosevelt was human. Being Human, he had his faults. Notwithstanding all the yelping and yowling of the Peggler and other jackals around and over Roosevelt's grave, who would like to gnaw his bones, he will go down in history, not just as our greatest President, but as the greatest man of all the ages, up to April 12, 1945.

"I remind you that Harry Truman was hand-picked by Franklin Roosevelt, just as much as Andrew Johnson was hand-picked by Abraham Lincoln. Johnson had his troubles with the Eightieth Congress of that day. But both he and Harry Truman will go down in history as outstanding Presidents, and both as men of sublime political courage."

There is a tremendous analogy between Harry Truman and Andrew Johnson. Andrew Johnson could have compromised with that dirty crowd that was trying to crucify the South and been overwhelmingly nominated and elected, but he had a conscience and he had the guts to back that conscience.

Harry Truman had a conscience and the guts to back it on his civil rights Bill; however, I am only all ^{out} for one of his Civil Rights proposition and that is doing away with the poll tax as a requisite for voting, and I am betwixt and between ^{on} the others but am all out against the Anti-Lynching Bill though "Hummon" Talmadge and his Ku Klux Klan might cause me to change my mind.

We must not forget that our Constitution guarantees a Constitutional form of government. I am not at all sure that requiring a poll tax to vote is not in contradiction to that constitutional provision.

BOYNTON H. FLEMING, SHERIFF
R. T. AGAR, TAX ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR
F. T. GRAHAM, COUNTY ATTORNEY
CHAUNCEY S. REID, DISTRICT CLERK
MRS. W. R. JONES, TREASURER
JAS. D. KOONCE, COUNTY SCHOOL Supt.



OSCAR C. DANCY, COUNTY JUDGE
TED HUNT, PRECINCT NO. 1, PORT ISABEL
FRED RECIO, PRECINCT NO. 2, BROWNSVILLE
A. D. BOWIE, PRECINCT NO. 3, SAN BENTO
A. A. KIMMELL, PRECINCT NO. 4, HARLINGEN
H. D. SEAGO, COUNTY CLERK
L. A. BAUER, COUNTY AUDITOR

JAN 15 A.M.

CAMERON COUNTY

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

January 14, 1949

Hon. Lyndon Johnson
U. S. Senator
Washington, D/ C.

Dear Lyndon:

Yesterday I sent you quite a commitment.

I am now sending you another Clipping from the Valley Morning Star of this date and copy of letter with enclosures to Hon. R. E. Smith, Chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission.

I served under Mr. Smith while I was on the Good Neighbor Commission, and I hope I am not violating the proprieties in sending you copy of my really personal letter to him. He is a "have" and I am a "have not", but he is one of those "haves" who has not lost the common touch. He was very indignant at the wetback labor which some of our moguls boasted of getting for this Valley at about \$2.00 a day. He pays his common labor \$5.00. I regard him very highly indeed. He was one of those, among the thousands of other good men, who fell for the smear that Big Texas Oil got over on you during the campaign. I think your victory in a way, was as grand as Truman's victory — I mean your getting the primary nomination, and I was even scared about the November election because Texas, as you know, in 1928 went Republic.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to Hon. Drew Pearson. I am certain that his Sunday broadcast or his columns in a few days will pay attention to this. I am also sending to Mr. Pearson a copy of the talk I made — not as oratory worth his reading — but as a statement about your election. I know that he put in some mighty good plugs for you in the primaries, but I doubt if he would plug for you now if he thought you got in by fraud — hence copies of the letters to Mr. Pearson.

Yours very truly,

Oscar C. Dancy
County Judge

OCD/ssm

January 14, 1949

Hon. R. E. Smith, Chairman
Good Neighbor Commission
Houston, Texas

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing you copy of letter which I wrote Lyndon Johnson on the 13th day of Jan., together with that clipping from the Valley Morning Star, and I also enclose you another clipping of an article appearing in the Valley Morning Star of this morning. It shows the shake-up at Three Rivers.

Now, those Three River people are good folks, and in a way, I can't help but sympathize with them. It just had to happen there, but this attitude is just a reflection of what exists so much all over Texas and which we have got to carry out by a campaign of education.

The burial of this boy in Arlington will work wonders in solving this problem.

I trust the Governor will re-appoint you and that you will be unanimously confirmed by the Senate as continuing Chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission. You have done a grand job, and I know your heart is in this work.

Before the election we talked a little about the Senatorial campaign. Bob, I made a very full check of this matter and became convinced that Lyndon Johnson with his 87 majority was just as honestly elected to the United States Senate from Texas as Oscar Dancy was re-elected County Judge of this County with, I am happy to say (but do not say it cockily) a majority of 4,694 votes; and I hope you will take the time to read what I said about him on October 30th. It begins about the middle of the 2nd page -- not sheet. You will see from this that I was not one of the "November 3rd Democrats" but stood up and was counted before the election. I think Lyndon is going to make us an outstanding Senator.

Well, Bob, every day when I see it, I appreciate that fine desk you gave me in memory of your good mother.

Rest assured that every time I come to Houston, I shall look you up; and, when you come to Brownsville, I shall expect you to at least phone me, and then I will hunt you up.

Wishing you all the success and happiness in this, so far as we know, best of all possible worlds, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Oscar C. Dancy, County Judge

OCD/ssm

January 14, 1949

Hon. Drew Pearson
Radio Commentator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pearson:

In my Air Mail letter placed in the mail early this morning, I did not have a copy of the Editorial from the Valley Morning Star of January 12th. I am enclosing you such copy; also enclosing you copies of letters to Hon. R. E. Smith, Chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission and to Senator Johnson, and I enclose to Senator Johnson a copy of this letter.

I think Senator Johnson did an outstanding job in makeing these funeral arrangements, and I can't help but hope that the same arrangements will be made for the bodies of those heroic Japs at Chicago.

I also enclose you mimeographed copy of my talk of October 30th for the Democratic ticket.

I hardly need to tell you that I try not to miss one of your broadcasts and that your column appearing in the Brownsville Herald is often read by me before I read the headlines.

They can cuss you all they want to, but you are doing an outstanding service for this America of ours.

Yours very truly,

Oscar C. Dancy
County Judge

OCD/smm

CCL Lyndon Johnson - Washington.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful and kind letter. I enjoyed hearing from you as a "transplanted Texan."

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserved.

If ever I can be of service to you at any time while you are in Washington, don't hesitate to call or come by the office and let us know.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. V. G. Roel
934 23rd Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

hb/whl
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

934 23rd St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
January 14, 1949

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
U.S. Senator from Texas
Washington, D.C.

JAN 16 A.M.

Dear Sir,

I have read in the local press, with great regret and shame, both as a Texan and as an American, of the almost intolerable incident which has occurred in Three Rivers, Texas in regards to the refusal of the funeral home at Three Rivers to hold reburial services for war veteran Felix Longoria, American of Mexican extraction, on the ground that "other white people might object because of his Mexican origin." This is only an example of how a small minority of ignorant, prejudiced "White" Texas-Americans can besmirch our idea of American Democracy, not only in the United States, but in foreign countries where we are trying to propound democracy against the outrageous suppression of personal rights and liberties by fascism and communism.

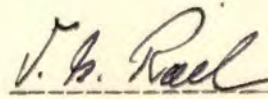
Mr. Longoria, who died while in the task of fighting Japanese aggression and totalitarianism, was deprived of the rights for which he gave his life to see that others would regain them against totalitarianism.

Not only does Mr. Longoria have a right to a reburial anywhere in the United States as a war dead, but he should have the right to be reburied and repose on the land of which his forefathers were the earliest settlers. I wonder if the people responsible for this reproachable act ever think what our Lord thinks about such inequities, especially when they are applied against a person who is dead—a war dead.

I would very sincerely like to commend your action in having the "unwanted" war victim reburied with full honors at Arlington. I think your action reflects not only the spirit of fair play, sincerity, righteousness, and true Americanism in you, but it also reflects the thoughts of the majority of Americans and Texans.

My home is in Laredo, Texas. I am a graduate of the University of Texas, and am now attending Georgetown Law School. You may rest assured that I will do everything in my power to see that your very commendable action is known to the good people of Texas.

Respectfully,



V. G. Roel

VGR/egr

 JAN 17 A.M.

Detroit Mich
Jan 14-49

Senator Johnson -

Being the mother of a Veteran
I want to thank you - for the stand
you took - Concerning the boy from Texas.
You were wonderful - Would that
these United States had more men
like you -

You will note from the clipping
the incident is getting a great
deal of publicity in Michigan.

Thank you again

Mrs Etie Vaschke
2681 Lakewood Ave
Detroit. Mich.

Detroit Free Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
JOHN S. KNIGHT, PUBLISHER J. H. BARRY, GENERAL MANAGER

Published every morning by Knight Newspapers, Inc., 321 W. Lafayette Ave., Detroit 31, Michigan.
Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Detroit, Michigan, under the act of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1949

28

A Hero's Return

Bigotry in Texas

PRIVATE FELIX LONGORIA was, before he entered the Army of the United States back in 1944, a resident of Three Rivers, Tex.

He was an American citizen who put on the uniform of his Country in order that this Nation might continue to be free; that men might always enjoy the guarantee of human liberty and dignity contained in the Bill of Rights; that the immortal words of Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—might be more than an empty phrase.

In the closing days of the war, Private Longoria was killed in the Philippines, wearing the uniform of his Country, fighting for all of her people including those of Texas.

His body was returned to the United States—to Three Rivers, Tex., for burial—a hero's burial.

But the people of Three Rivers, who live securely and prosperously because of the sacrifice which Private Longoria and thousands like him made, said he could not sleep out eternity in the soil of his native town and state.

You see, Private Longoria was of Mexican descent.

The hundred per cent Americans of Three Rivers, Tex., do not think that an American of Mexican extraction is entitled to the privileges of United States citizenship in life—or in death.



THE Three Rivers funeral parlor would not accept the flag-draped casket which contains all that is mortal of Private Longoria.

His widow, seeking to make funeral arrangements, was rebuffed.

No Mexicans allowed—not even if they are heroes!

United States Senator Lyndon Johnson was notified, and fixed matters so that the remains of Private Longoria would be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Arlington is not in Texas. It is a United States military cemetery where are buried such men as Pershing, Custer and Admiral Dewey. They were not Texans either. It is just possible that even their national extraction, religion or political faith would have barred them from the soil of Three Rivers.



WE ARE not inclined to condemn men for their prejudices. Those are weaknesses with which they are born—like some disease which persists through generation after generation.

Rather, we pity them.

And in the case of the patriots of Three Rivers, Tex., we are inclined to acknowledge our gratitude.

What they have done is to have advanced the cause of civil liberties in the United States beyond all the efforts put forth in their behalf to date.

With this classic example before them, we cannot conceive of any Southern bloc of legislators opposing bills to further the cause of racial and national equality.

When the half-citizens of this land are finally granted full admission to American citizenship, they can thank the Three Rivers, of which, unfortunately, there are many in the South—and the North.



THE map shows that Texas is the largest state in the Union.

Today, in the eyes of sincere Americans, it is seen dimly, much smaller than tiny Rhode Island.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friends:

Your kind and thoughtful note made me feel very proud as I read it, and I deeply appreciate your taking time to remember me.

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserved.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Wallace
Publishers Emergency Bureau
111 Lee Avenue
Lexington, Virginia

nb/nhl
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

JAN 17 A.M.

PUBLISHERS EMERGENCY BUREAU
HILLSDALE COLUMBIA CO.
NEW YORK

Lexington, Va.
111 Lee Ave. Sunday

Senator Lyndon D. Johnson
Dear Sir:

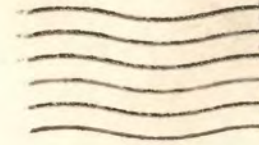
Allow me to congratulate
you for your action in connection
with the Three Rivers incident.
It was magnificent - the best
possible opening for the Civil
Rights program.

And as former Texans we
add our sincere thanks

Faithfully yours,

S. S. Wallace

Samuel Wallace



Senator Lyndon D. Johnson,
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.



January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Miss Elizabeth Pangle
300 South Wayne Street
Arlington, Virginia

cc to
Mr. Longoria, Felix

IN REPLY
REFER TO
FILE No.

U. S. NAVY CENTRAL DISBURSING OFFICE
1608 ARLINGTON ANNEX
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 15 A.M.

500 So. Wayne Street
Arlington, Va.
Phone Glebe 6224

Hon. Lyndon Johnson:
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Johnson:

I know of nothing you could do as one of your first acts in the Senate that would bring you more love, respect and confidence from the American people as your act of loyalty to the American Service Man described on the front page of New York Times of yesterday.

Through Winchell, Pearson and every service man's magazine, papers and periodicals this should be given to the entire Nation from every city and hamlet and rural community. It should span both Oceans through Radio facilities and magazines and reach the most lowly and lonely American Soldier as a guarantee they will receive the respect due a soldier as long as this Nation exists, and will be the best defence against Communism and lighten the hearts of their loved ones who may have any doubt as to what the future may bring.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Pangle.

Elizabeth Pangle

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

I felt very humble today as I read your wonderful note. The eloquence of your sincerity warmed my heart and gave me new courage to face the responsibilities and opportunities of this office.

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, American, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserved.

I sincerely pray that all my acts here will be for the best interest of all the people at all times.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Elia Vann Lozano
Business Service Office
1115 Agnes Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

hb/mhl
Army-Langoria, Felix-Reburial

F JAN 17 AM

Corpus Christi, Texas
January 14, 1949

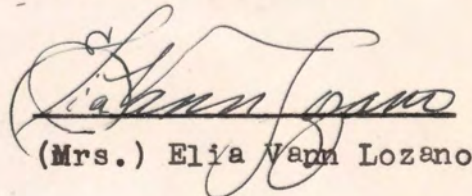
Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I lack the eloquence of words with which to express the feeling in my heart, and I am sure, in the heart of my people, in seeing the action taken by you in the Three Rivers, Longoria Case, yet I feel I am not lacking in the sincerity with which to thank you for the attention given which will remain always in the hearts and minds of all of Mexican ancestry as well as in the minds of "those" so personally prejudiced towards us.

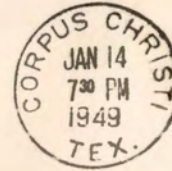
Thanking you, I remain,

Respectfully yours,



(Mrs.) Elia Vann Lozano

Elia Vann Lozano
Business Service Office
1115 Agnes St.
Corpus Christi, Texas



Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Washington
D. C.

January 17, 1949

Dear Raymond:

Thank you very much for sending the editorial from The San Angelo Standard Times. I had not seen it previously, and probably would have missed it if you had not been so thoughtful.

I certainly appreciate the kind words of the editorial, and it started my day off right when I read it this morning.

I enjoyed your news from Gene. He too is a fine person to know, and I wish he could have been with us during the campaign.

I hope that all is well with you. We are in the midst of the turmoil of inauguration week, and it seems that half the people in Texas are in Washington, and most of them are in our new offices here in the Senate. It is good, of course, to see all the old friends, and I wish you were here with us.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Raymond Allred
Blocker-Allred Oil Company
P. O. Box 1472
Odessa, Texas

hb/ahl
Amy, Longoria, Felix-Reburial

JAN 17 A.M.

BLOCKER-ALLRED OIL COMPANY

COSDEN PRODUCTS -- WHOLESALE & RETAIL

P. O. Box 1472 Phone 3922

ODESSA, TEXAS January 15 1949

Dear Lyndon,

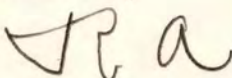
The enclosed appeared today in the San Angelo Standard-Times; am sending it to you for fear you might miss it otherwise.

Also appearing on the same page is a story by Drew Pearson, which I am assuming you have seen, entitled "Colleagues agree Johnson will be an asset in the Senate".

I have just returned from California; Gene Autry wants you to know that you are about the nicest person he knows, and that frankly he feels that he 'kinda' let you down in not going to the bat for you.

With all good wishes, I am

your friend,



Raymond Allred

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

The expression of the Board of Directors of Inter-American House makes me very proud, yet humble. My part in this incident was small, but I was honored to have a share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service to his Country deserves.

Your understanding and thoughtfulness is personally reassuring to me, and I deeply appreciate it.

I pray that I may at all times serve all the people of Texas and of the Nation however and whenever I can.

With my deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Paul G. Wassenich
2007 University Avenue
Austin, Texas

hb/ml
Army, Longoria, Felix, Reburial

THE INTER-AMERICAN HOUSE
"An Experiment in Inter-Cultural Living and Working"
2301 E. FIRST ST. TELEPHONE: 85858
AUSTIN, TEXAS

JAN 17 A.M.

January 13, 1949

DIRECTOR,
MISS EMMA JEWELL ROSS
BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
FROM:

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST:
PAUL G. WASSENICH
MRS. W. A. DARTER

EPISCOPALIAN:
J. J. M. HARTE
A. R. BANDY

METHODIST:
R. E. LEDBETTER
MRS. J. H. KIGHT
PEDRO VALDEZ

PRESBYTERIAN:
JACK LEWIS
FRED ADAMS

YM-YWCA:
HUGH ECKOLS

Senator Lyndon Johnson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

At a meeting of the board of directors of Inter-American House today noon it was voted to send you a note of appreciation regarding the fine action you took in the case of the Latin-American G. I.

It is an all too rare occasion when civic leaders so courageously stand up for members of minority groups in our nation. This board is working constantly with the problem of the Latin-American. We are in a position to appreciate that it took courage and conviction to do this thing you did, and we deeply appreciate it. It strengthens our already present impression that we have a genuinely democratic spirit in our Junior Senator from Texas.

With kindest regards and very best wishes for a long career in the Senate, devoted to the interests "of all the people," I am

Sincerely yours,

Paul G. Wassenich
Paul G. Wassenich,
2007 University Ave.,
Member of the Board.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY—Rhythm band; woodworking for boys; crafts for girls.

TUESDAY—Playschool for pre-school children; football, baseball, etc. for boys.

WEDNESDAY—Crafts for girls; woodworking for boys.

THURSDAY—Playschool for pre-school children; woodworking for boys.

FRIDAY—Melody band; guitar class.

FIVE CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

HANDWORK CLASSES

GROUPS SPONSORING INTER-AMERICAN HOUSE

CANTERBURY CLUB
of All Saints' Episcopal Church

EAST AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH
(Latin American)

STUDENT ASSOCIATION
of University Community Church

WESTMINSTER STUDENT FELLOWSHIP
of University Presbyterian Church

WESLEY FOUNDATION
of University Methodist Church

DISCIPLE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP
of University and Central Christian Churches

UNIVERSITY Y.M.C.A. - Y.W.C.A.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents.....Rev. Robert Ledbetter
Rev. Joseph Harte

SecretaryAlbert Bandy

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Mrs. W. A. Darter, Hugh Eckols, Mrs.
John H. Kight, Rev. W. Jack Lewis, John
Livingston, Mary Lutrick, Rev. Pedro
Valdez, Rev. Paul Wassenich, Joyce
Yokum.

An Experiment in...

INTER-CULTURAL
LIVING AND WORKING

at

The INTER-AMERICAN HOUSE

2301 EAST FIRST STREET TELEPHONE 8-7858
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Is a Member of THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SETTLEMENTS'
COMMUNITY CENTERS AND NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES

THE INTER-AMERICAN HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Why It Is Important IN OUR TIME

- a pioneering organization in an area of inter-racial tension
- working with one of the greatest problems facing this generation
- unique experiment in inter-cultural living and working
- only Association of its kind in Austin and Central Texas
- trains while it serves



What It Seeks To Do NOW

- To develop fellowship and understanding among the various cultural groups in the neighborhood.
- To give students of the University of Texas opportunity for training and service in a Christian settlement house.
- To establish a program which will make for real friendship among people of various nationalities living in the neighborhood.
- To reduce juvenile delinquency by building Christian character and personal skills.

What Has Been Done TO DATE

Inter-American House Association was established in November, 1943, upon the securing of a \$1,000 grant by Dr. George I. Sanchez of the University of Texas.

The Association has labored unceasingly to promote mutual understanding and to meet the needs of the several cultural groups in the community, whose ancestors came from Syria, Germany, Denmark, China, Italy, Greece, and Latin America. At the present time, it is serving an average of sixty boys and girls each week. It has never been able to reach large numbers, due to physical and financial limitations, but rather has emphasized qualitative work with individual attention to promote personal growth and mutual understanding.

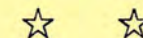
Students from the University of Texas who have assisted in the program have benefited from the opportunity and responsibility of leadership. Whether going ahead in graduate study, entering their vocations, or establishing their own homes they are better able to serve their own communities after this experience.



What Can Be Done . . . IN THE FUTURE

- Double the facilities for program activities in the House itself
- Add staff members to supervise increasing program and training of student volunteers

- Provide adequate salaries for staff
- Enlarge and equip craft shop at rear of property
- Provide visual education aids
- Increase operating budget to assure sound, well-rounded program
- You can help in many ways
 - through your active interest
 - through your personal contribution
 - through enlisting the support of your church, civic, or social organizations.



LEADERSHIP . . . TOP-FLITE

Miss Emma Jewell Ross, executive secretary, has a broad background of experience for the leadership of Inter-American House. Besides serving on the national board staff of the Y.W.C.A. for ten years, during which time she worked with children in France and the Near East, she has also ministered to the Spanish-speaking families of the Rio Grande Valley and children in other parts of Texas. Immediately prior to her connection with Inter-American House, she was a resident worker in Wesley Community Center in Dallas and the International Institute in San Antonio.

Miss Ross is ably assisted by students from the University who come from various parts of the state, nation, and foreign countries. Their contribution to the work is invaluable.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

My part in this incident about the reburial of Felix Longoria was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

I sincerely appreciate your very thoughtful and kind letter, and your words make me feel very humble.

I hope, as you hope, that this incident may bring to us the understanding and human decency which no legislation can ever enforce.

With my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Stuart Gerry Brown
Syracuse University
Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship
and Public Affairs
Syracuse 10, New York

hb/ml
Army, Longoria, Felix, Reburial

JAN 17 A.M.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
MAXWELL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SYRACUSE 10, NEW YORK

PAUL H. APPLEBY
Dean

FREDERICK M. DAVENPORT
Advisory Counsel

January 14, 1949

My dear Senator:

Having heard from Paul Appleby many things about your liberal attitude and excellent record in the House of Representatives, I followed your campaign for the Senate last fall with great interest and sympathy and was delighted when you were successful.

May I take the liberty now of telling you how deeply moved I was to read in the New York Times yesterday an account of your handling of the problem of the burial of a Mexican soldier from Three Rivers, Texas, and how splendid I think your telegram concerning that matter is. I clipped the article and made use of it this morning in my lecture on American democracy.

As a liberal Democrat I am in full sympathy with the President's program on civil rights, but I should like to say that I feel strongly that such an act as yours in the case of Vincent Longoria given the kind of publicity it will undoubtedly have in south Texas may in the long run do more for the advancement of equality and human decency than any legislation.

Sincerely yours,


Stuart Gerry Brown

The Honorable Lyndon Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

You were very kind to send such a thoughtful note about my part in the case of the American soldier who was denied reburial at Three Rivers.

Actually what I did was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian burial to which he was entitled by his faithful, unselfish service to the cause of Democracy.

It was good to hear from you, and I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness in telling me of your reactions to this case.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. George Blitch
700 E. Vance Street
Tyler, Texas

hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix, Reburial

More than 50% of the nation's supply of commercial rose bushes
produced within a 25 mile radius of Tyler

JAN 17 A.M.



TYLER—

"The Rose Garden
of America"

Tyler, Texas

700 E. Vance St.
Jan. 13, 1949

Dear Lyndon:

We are proud of the
way you handled Mexican
Soldier's case at Three Rivers.
"Calculating Turn Coat" would
not have raised his finger
for fear of losing some
of his bigot support.
We always know where
you stand if we want
to know.

yours
Leo! Blitch

COURTESY TYLER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness in writing such a wonderful letter.

My part in the incident was small, but I was proud to share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his great unselfish service deserves.

I am especially glad that you feel my actions on this have justified in some measure the confidence you placed in me last year.

With my very best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Claude W. Bryant
Clay Building Material Company
Stephenville, Texas

hb/ml
Army, Longoria, Felix-Reburial

JAN 17 A.M.

CLAY



BUILDING MATERIAL COMPANY

Retail Lumber Dealers

GENERAL OFFICE STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

January 13, 1949

Hon. Lyndon Johnson
U. S. Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Allow me to compliment you on the assistance rendered the widow of a Texas hero, Felix Longoria. The refusal of Three Rivers funeral home to handle the body of Longoria on account of his being of Mexican descent is a deplorable affair and I hope that our good people of Texas are not judged by other states and by the outside world and placed in the class of this one man.

Incidents of this kind do more to produce race hatred than the patriotic citizen can live down in a long time.

Thanks for your happy solution in arranging for the burial of this hero in Arlington National Cemetery with military honors.

A few months ago I supported you in the election but I am a lot stronger Johnson man now.

Yours very truly,

Claude W. Bryant
Claude W. Bryant

CWB/k



BALLINGER
BRADY
CLEBURNE
COMANCHE
EDEN
STEPHENVILLE
WOODSON

January 17, 1969

My dear Friend:

I certainly enjoyed your fine and thoughtful letter this morning. It was good to know that you are keeping up with my actions here in the Texas papers.

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in providing this American boy the decent and Christian burial which his service deserves.

If ever I can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to write and let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Andrew T. Bailey
1910 Tilletson Avenue
Austin, Texas

hb/chl
Army, Longoria Felix, Reburial

1910 Tilletsen Ave.,

Austin, Texas

January 12, 1949.

U S Senator Lyon B. Johnson,
Senate office Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

JAN 16 A.M.

Dear senator:

Please allow me to express my great joy in knowing
that you have been successfully seated in the United States Senate.

I was glad to know you presided over the U. S. Senate for
a time and was thrilled at your handling of the Latin American
case - the Three Rivers case, who knows but that you were
sent to the U. S. Senate at this time for that and similar
purposes May your best judgment shall continue to be for
the betterment of the whole people of the U. S.

Respectfully,

Andrew T. Bailey.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your postcard.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

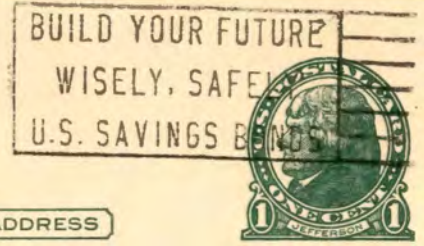
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John J. Daly
609 West 114th Street
New York 23, N. Y.

cc -
Mr. Longoria, Felix

Jan 13-49
Dear Senator Johnson:
I live in the N.Y.
Think about your noble
interior in Felix Longoria
All Veterans in our Country
are Happy to ^{help} Men and Women
to Carry on your fine Work
May I wish you a
Happy Successful 1949.
The U.S.A. and the World
needs you to bring Peace
to all Peoples.
From a W.W. one Veteran.

Sincerely,
John J. Daly
609 W 114 St
New York 25 N.Y.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

JAN 14 P.M.

Hon. Lyndon D. Johnson
Washington
D.C.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

I hope that my service will always justify your faith and confidence in me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John J. Herrera
United Latin-American Citizens
710 Scanlon Building
Houston 2, Texas
Mr. &
Mr. Longoria, Felix

JAN 15 A.M.

LEAGUE OF
UNITED LATIN-AMERICAN CITIZENS
"All for One and One for All"

OFFICE OF
JOHN J. HERRERA
LULAC REGIONAL GOVERNOR
710 SCANLON BLDG.
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

January 13, 1949

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson,
Senate of the U. S. of America,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

As one of your staunchest supporters in Harris County, Texas it made me very happy to read in todays Houston Press the arrangements which you made for Military Rites for Felix Longoria, who died in battle on the Island of Luzon.

I consider your handling of this matter a personal courtesy to all of the gallant Texas GI's who served during World War 2 and particularly as I am of Mexican descent, I appreciate your handling the Longoria matter as you did. You will find Senator Johnson, from time to time as a senator from Texas, that shameful incidents such as the Longoria matter will occur and I hope that in the future you will continue to handle them in the splendid manner in which you took care of the incident mentioned.

With every good wish for a successful administration, I am

One of your Harris County Supporters,


John J. Herrera

JJH:MG

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Charles Munn
Mexico Touring Service
P. O. Box 1089
Laredo, Texas

Re:
war-longoria, Felix

CHARLES MUMM

MEXICO TOURING SERVICE

ESTABLISHED 1931

LAREDO. TEXAS

JAN 15 A.M.

January 13th.1949

Hon.Lindon B.Johnson
U.S.Senator
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:--

My wife and I want to thank you,on behalf of every decent minded American,for your prompt and energetic action in the matter of the reburial of G.I.Longoria.

We had 3 boys in the war,one of whom we brought back last year and buried in our family plot here. We can,therefore,only too well,picture the feelings of G.I.Longoria's poor mother,when the Three Rivers Funeral Director, totally unfit to be an American,insulted her,her son and every dead G.I.by refusing the use of his chapel.

We are proud to have a man like you as our Senator,may
God bless you.

Respectfully yours


CHARLES MUMM

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. A. Fein
200 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York

Re: ~~Mr.~~
~~Mr. Longoria, Felix~~

200 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York
January 14, 1949

JAN 15 A.M.

Honorable Senator Lyndon D. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

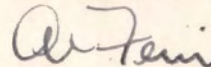
I am very, very proud of you because you have rejuvenated my belief in this country's ideals.

We need examples like you have shown with the Mexican soldier to show the world that this country has beliefs that we stick by even though now or then some Southern bigot may do something to make us doubt that this is a free country.

The communists of the world will surely not tell their people of your noble deed, and your deed is our best answer to the communists of the world.

May I congratulate you upon your stand in this matter and be assured that you have done something that your family and all Americans can be proud of.

Sincerely yours,



A. FEIN

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your postcard.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Milton S. Zieberg
54 Clifford Place
Box 53
New York, New York

Mr. &
Mr. Longoria, Felix

Jan. 13, 1949

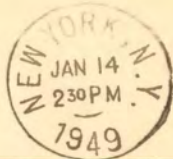
ping?

Dear Senator Johnson, **JAN 15 A.M.**

In your action with reference to the burial of Pvt. Felix Longoria I became aware of what great good can be done by men in your office & I am very proud of you personally.

Yours truly,
Milton P. Zieberg

St. Cliffs Pl.
Rt 57, N.Y.



CHURCH STREET



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

SENATOR LYNDON D. JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

I was especially glad to hear from Margaret's Mother, and Mrs. Johnson appreciated your remembering her.

If ever I can be of any service to you in any way, I hope that you will not hesitate to let me hear from you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

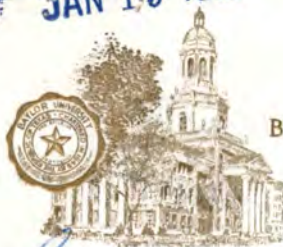
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Sidney Staples
Baylor University
Burleson Hall
Waco, Texas

cc
Mr. Longoria, Felix

JAN 15 A.M.

Waco Tex
Jan 12th 1949



BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

Senator Lyndon Johnson

My dear Senator.

I am happy to address
you Senator, but
happier still to say
"My Senator!"

I worked hard for your
election the past
summer, as did my

Daughter who works
at R. I. B. C.

We rejoiced with your
legions of friends and
your family over your
hard fought, well de-
served victory, for we
knew you would do
honor to the grand
State of Texas.

But today, you have,
I feel, immortalized
your self by the
action you have

taken in offering
the bereaved wife of
Felip Longoria, a full
military funeral for
husband, in Arlington
Cemetery.

I'm sure you do not
remember me, but my
beloved husband, now
deceased, was a very
staunch friend and
supported of yours.
I still maintain my
home in Austin, but have

been in charge of a
Senior House at Baylor
University for eight years.

Nostrum except the
death of Pres. Roosevelt, has
created as much commotion
as the Director of the
funeral home at
Three Rivers refusing
to accept this G.I.'s body
for reburial.

I feel it was a
lack of American
patriotism!

I feel this patriotic



deed, with all the
constructive legislation
you may expect during
your tenure of office
will cause your
name to be written
the mouths of men,
long after those who
have sought to de-

fare you, lie
sleeping in forgotten
dust!

Please remember
Margaret and me
to your charming wife.

With every good wish
for your health
and happiness.

Yours
Sincerely,

(Mrs Sidney) Augusta Stoples

Mrs Sidney Stoper
Burlison Hall
Waco Texas

January 17, 1949

My dear friend:

It was thoughtful of you to send the clipping from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and I particularly appreciate your interest and your kind comments on my action in this case.

Personally, I am very proud to have shared in securing for Felix Longoria the decent American burial which his service to his Country deserves. It is reassuring to know how you feel about this.

I hope that I can always have the wisdom to use what you call "good old Texas horse sense."

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Fred Paddisford
P. O. Box 821
Coleman, Texas

hb/mhl
Army, Longoria, Felix, Reburial

FRED PADDLEFORD, President

R. R. BROWNING, Vice-President

The Coleman Abstract Co., Inc.

ESTABLISHED 1885

COLEMAN, TEXAS

13 January 1949.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson ,
Washington D. C.

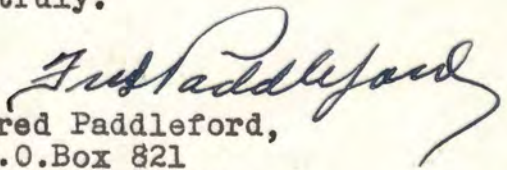
Dear Senator Johnson:

I am sending you this item from the Fort Worth Star Telegram of Ft. Worth, Texas published January 13, 1949, and I wish to thank you for your stand in this matter .

I am not of the Latin -American origin but I think that it is a disgrace to the State of Texas to have one of the Men killed in the service of his Country refused the right of burial. regardless of his birth.

Thank you again for your GOOD OLD TEXAS Horse sense, and may you have a very pleasant term of office.

Yours very truly.


Fred Paddleford,
P.O.Box 821
Coleman, Texas .

Will Lie With Unknown Soldier

JAN 16 A.M.

Texas Mexican War Hero's Reburial To Be in Arlington National Cemetery

BY B. N. TIMMONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—A Texas Mexican war hero who was killed during the invasion of the Philippines will be reburied with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery here because a funeral home in Three Rivers, the hero's home town, reportedly refused to handle the body.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas made arrangements for a hero's burial at the national cemetery after he was informed that the body of Felix Longoria had been refused for burial by a Three Rivers mortician because Longoria was a Mexican.

"I deeply regret to learn that the prejudice of some individuals extends even beyond this life," Johnson said to Longoria's widow,

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria of Three Rivers. "This injustice and prejudice is deplorable. I'm happy to have a part in seeing that this Texas hero is laid to rest with the honor and dignity his service to the nation deserves."

Mrs. Longoria wired Johnson Wednesday thanking him for making arrangements for her husband to be buried at the Arlington National Cemetery, where the body of the Unknown Soldier also is interred.

"I am humbly grateful for your kindness in my hour of humiliation and suffering," she wired.

Longoria's body is scheduled to arrive in San Francisco Thursday, and Johnson has made arrangements for it to be sent immediately to the Arlington Cemetery overlooking Washington.

Johnson was first informed of the Longoria case by Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi, president of the American GI Forum, Johnson said.

Garcia requested an investigation of the failure of a Three Rivers funeral home to accept Mrs. Longoria's request that the home handle the reburial of her husband. Dr. Garcia identified the funeral home as the Rice Funeral Home of Three Rivers and informed Johnson by telegram that he had spoken personally with T. W. Kennedy of the funeral home. Garcia quoted Kennedy as saying that reburial of Longoria had been refused because "white people object to the use of the funeral home by those of Mexican origin."

Ft Worth Star Telegram
13 January 1949.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

I appreciate your interest in the case of Felix Longoria, whose family was denied use of the funeral home chapel at Three Rivers, Texas.

My acquaintance with the facts of the case is simply that I was notified by the President of the Veterans Organization at Corpus Christi of the refusal of the funeral home to handle this veteran's body. Upon learning of this I made arrangements for him to be reburied in Arlington's National Cemetery or at Fort Sam Houston Military Cemetery in San Antonio. Private Longoria's widow informed me the next day that she would like to have her husband buried here at Arlington.

Naturally, all the arrangements about the funeral, including the date, will be left entirely for the widow to decide. I am sure she will appreciate knowing of your thoughtful and helpful interest, and if there is any way in which you or your organization can be of assistance, I will let you know.

With my best regards,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Commander Karl O. Spiess
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
Eighth District
Fairfax, Virginia

cc
war-longoria, felix

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

FOUNDED 1899

AN ASSOCIATION OF MEN
WHO HAVE FOUGHT AMERICA'S
FOREIGN WARS ON LAND, SEA
AND IN THE AIR.



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF:
The Commander,
Eighth District,
Fairfax, Virginia,
January 13, 1949.

JAN 14 P.M.
Department Headquarters
7 South Market Street
P. O. Box 959, Phone 363
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Senator Johnson,
Texas,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

Reported in the newspapers of today, here at Washington, is the story about the overseas veteran who lost his life in the service of his Country and the undertaker who refused to bury him because he was of Mexican extraction.

I am wondering if you will ^{be} good enough to furnish us with the facts. Of course, I am writing you for information to be conveyed to my membership, but in the mean time it maybe that we could do something on this end to assist with burial of this veteran. While I am not a member of the Department of the District of Columbia, I will do anything I can to get them to assist.

Thanking you for your assistance, I am,

Cordially and sincerely,

Karl O. Spiess
Karl O. Spiess,
Commander.

January 17, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very thoughtful of you to send such a kind message. Your words make me humble, and I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter.

My part in this incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

I appreciate also knowing how you feel about our program of aid abroad.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Robert W. Orr
Box 167, Route 2
Pampa, Texas

cc
war-longoria, felix

JAN 15 1949

Pampa, Texas
January 13, 1949

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:-

Please accept my sincere thanks and congratulations for your action in recommending that the Mexican who was refused funeral service in South Texas be buried in Arlington. It seems to me that if a man is good enough to be dressed in OD and sent to foreign soil to give his life he is good enough be buried anywhere in the country. I hope it will be possible for his parents and family to be present at the Arlington Cemetary services.

I'll tell you right frankly that I am no NEW DEALER and I think we are headed straight for bankruptcy if we take on all the continued New Deal schemes of bailing out public money to every so and so all over the globe. It seems we must rehabilitate all and sundry all over the world, but a disabled veteran has to battle for months or years to get a disability claim allowed, and not then without the assistance of one of the Veterans organizations.

"Good old Joe" wrapped F.D.R. around his finger at Teheran and Yalta and we're paying the bill now. How long, I ask you can we continue to spend two hundred thousand dollars a day because the Soviets made a monkey of us with their secret deals. If the results of the war had been reversed, if we had lost, how many food laden ships would be headed WEST across the Atlantic instead of EAST? How many Kraut flyers would risk their necks to bring us coal while we sat on our hands in our coal fields? Now don't spring that old worn out gag, "Would you let them starve?" I've known lots of Germans in different parts of the country and I never knew one to starve yet. They have sence enough to not destroy their crops. What about the expensive mess we've made of the potato situation? I'd like to hear some thing about a "Saving Program" for the American people instead of the usually advertised "Spending Program".

Thanks again for your action in the Mexican case,

Box 167, Route 2

Sincerely yours,

Robt. W. Orr

January 17, 1949

My dear Friends:

You don't know how proud and humble it made me feel to read your wonderful letter this morning when I came into the office.

My part in arranging for the funeral of the Latin-American boy was small, but I was happy that I could share in providing for him the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves. I am especially proud that my friends like you feel that this action justifies in some small measure the confidence you placed in me last year.

I hope that I can at all times live up to your expectations, and I will always appreciate hearing from you to let me know how well I am performing the duties of this office here.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gilmore
Bar-G Ranch
Lyford, Texas

hb/mhl
Army, Longoria, Felix, Reburial

JAN 18 AM.

12/49
Dear Mr Johnson,
The Latin American
A.S. that the funeral
home in Three Rivers
had refused its facilities,
And your prompt
and honorable action
in having the reburial
in Wilmington with
full Military honors
made us proud, that
we had so small a
part in sending
you to our United
States Senate

Wishing for you
and your family
much happiness
Your friends
Dora and Bruce
Gilmore

After 5 days, return to
D. B. GILMORE,
Bar-G Ranch,
LYFORD, TEXAS.



Sen. Lyndon Johnson
United States Senator
Washington D.C.

January 18, 1949

Dear Captain De Zavala:

I really appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter which came in this morning.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

It was good to know what the folks in Austin are saying about my actions.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Captain Augustine De Zavala
Special Representative
Capital National Bank
Austin, Texas

hb/ml
Amy-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

JAN 18 AM



AUG. DE ZAVALA
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK

IN AUSTIN

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, ONE MILLION DOLLARS

AUSTIN, TEXAS

January 15, 1949

Honorable Lyndon Johnson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I sincerely want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did in connection with Felix Longoria of Three Rivers. Regardless of what Kennedy, the undertaker there denies, the fact that he refused to bury him remains and your action was outstanding.

Frankly, I can't believe that any funeral home would do a thing of that kind and deep down in my heart I am inclined to believe there is some misunderstanding in some way, but never-the-less, you were "quick on the trigger" and some of your "past opponents" friends told me only last night, "Damn it, Coke wouldn't have done that.".

With best regards and congratulations, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Augustine' or 'Augustine De Zavala'.

Aug. De Zavala
Special Representative

ADZ:mfr

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

★ ★ ★



CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

THE CAPITAL
NATIONAL BANK
IN AUSTIN

★ ★ ★ ★

AUSTIN · TEXAS

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF

THE CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK

IN AUSTIN

AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DECEMBER 31, 1948

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Loans and Discounts	\$ 9,309,282.22	Capital Stock — Common	\$ 500,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	64,183.22	Surplus and Undivided Profits	764,905.36
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	30,000.00	Dividend on Common Stock Unpaid	20,000.00
Banking House (Unencumbered)	500,000.00	Reserves	348,438.00
Other Assets	734.28	Interest Collected Not Earned	49,974.94
CASH	\$8,499,762.78	Deposits	25,426,688.38
UNITED STATES BONDS	5,990,006.90		
MUNICIPAL BONDS AND			
WARRANTS	2,616,037.28		
OTHER BONDS	100,000.00		
	<u>17,205,806.96</u>		
TOTAL	\$27,110,006.68	TOTAL	<u>\$27,110,006.68</u>

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORY

OFFICERS

WALTER BREMOND, JR., President
JNO. A. GRACY, Vice-President & Trust Officer
E. P. CRAVENS, Vice-President
WALTER BOHN, Vice-President
LEO KUHN, Cashier
W. C. KENNEDY, Ass't Vice-President
JOHN S. BURNS, Ass't Vice-President
AUG. DeZAVALA, Special Representative
F. M. DuBOSE, Assistant Cashier
WILFORD NORMAN, Assistant Cashier
ROY B. STEWART, Assistant Cashier

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HERMAN BROWN, Chairman of the Board
President, Brown & Root, Inc.; President.
Brown Shipbuilding Company

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WALTER BREMOND, JR. President	C. L. (OX) HIGGINS President, C & S Sporting Goods Co.
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R. B. COUSINS, JR. Manager, Texas Insur- ance Checking Office; President, First Federal Savings & Loan Assn.	JAS. P. NASH Nash & Windfohr Oil Co. Nash Gasoline Co.
E. P. CRAVENS Vice President	Z. T. SCOTT Physician
THEO P. DAVIS Executive Partner, Nelson Davis & Son	GEO. E. SHELLEY Attorney
JNO. A. GRACY Vice President	F. W. STERNENBERG President, Kuntz-Sternenberg Lumber Co.

COPY

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your letter of the fifteenth. My part in this incident at Three Rivers, Texas, was small, but I was proud to share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

It was very kind of you to write me as you did, and I sincerely appreciate it.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. E. Fletcher Campbell

941 West Ann Arbor

Plymouth, Michigan

HB/cm
Congt. on Felix Longoria

Plymouth, Michigan
January, 15th. 1949

Senator from Texas
Lyndon Johnson
Washington,
D.C.

JAN 19 A.M.

Dear Sir:

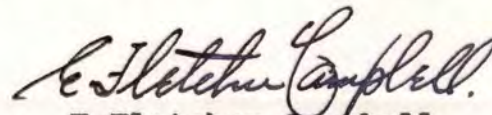
I sent a letter to your governor with a clipping enclosed and a cartoon taken from the Detroit Free Press showing a hooded 'ku-kluxer' with a gun guarding a door bearing 'No Admittance' on, with the heading above reading 'D'ya Think We Want The Flag of Texas Sullied?' It was the Three Rivers Funeral Home, and before it lay the United States flag-draped coffin of Pvt. Felix Longoria, Luzon War Hero of Mexican Descent.

The last paragraph of the article said:
'The map shows that Texas is the largest state in the Union. Today, in the eyes of sincere Americans, it is dimly, much smaller than tiny Rhode Island.'

It was indeed gratifying to read tho' that you, Senator Johnson, from Texas, saw to it that Private Longoria had a hero's grave given him in a hero's cemetery. The mean earth of Three Rivers is not worthy for such an one.

I know neither the dead soldier nor you, Senator. But as a stranger I wanted to thank you that such as you are in Washington with a 'white' heart for the truly great.

Very truly,



E. Fletcher Campbell
941 West Ann Arbor
Plymouth, Michigan

(A veteran of World War I).

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

I really appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter which came in this morning.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

If ever I can be of service to you in Washington, please don't hesitate to call the office or come by to see us.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Miss Opal Gooden
Gooden and Sarles
Public Relations Consultants
1002 Dupont Circle Building
Washington 6, D. C.

hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix, Reburial

GOODEN AND SARLES
Public Relations Consultants
to Embassies and Legations

NORTH 0861

1002 DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

17 January 1949

Senator Lyndon Johnson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

JAN 18 A.M.

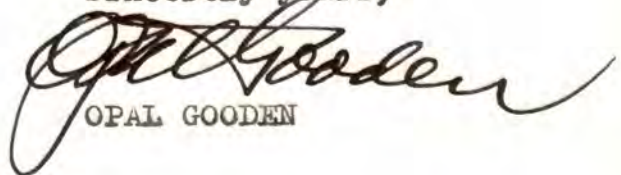
Dear Senator Johnson:

As a native Texan I want you to know how proud I am of a fellow Texan with courage to do the decent thing for the widow of a war veteran of Mexican ancestry. We are very progressive in Texas in many ways but some of our people need to let some fresh air blow thru their heads and hearts. Just where have they been since -- well, at least 1933?

If this display of imagination and grit are true indications of the kind of public servant you are, it looks as if Texas has finally got a real junior Senator.

With every good wish and appreciation for your efforts to redeem the good name of Texas,

Sincerely yours,



OPAL GOODEN

My family live in
Ft. Worth and I
grew up there.

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

I really appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter which came in this morning.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

If ever I can be of service to you in Washington, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Frank O. Washam
5726 Kenmore Avenue
Chicago 40, Illinois

hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

F JAN 18 A.M.

5726 Kenmore Av.
Chicago, Ill., 40

Jan. 12, 1949

The Hon. Sen. Johnson -
Washington, D.C.

Please permit me, an
"Alabamian" to congratulate
for defending the honor of
the Grand State of Texas,
in your magnificent ges-
ture to "Civil Rights" by hav-
ing this loyal Al. who
gave his life for the four
freedoms, interred in
Arlington National Cemetery.

My prayer is for more hon-
est lawmakers like yourself.
Sincerely Mary L. Hashim
(Mrs. Frank O.)

P.S.

As an Illinois
Citizen I can't
Vote for you
as a Senator
Sometime, I
might have a
Chance to Vote
for you as Pres-
ident?

M.L.W.

COPY

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was a very pleasant surprise to hear from you, and I deeply appreciated your heart-warming letter. It brightened this rainy Washington day a great deal for me.

My part in the incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves. It is reassuring to me to know that you feel as you do about my action, and with the support of friends like you, the words of critics can never hurt.

If ever I can be of any service to you in any way here in Washington or back home in Texas, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Saul O. Paredes
Asst. Superintendent of Money Orders
U. S. Post Office
El Paso, Texas

HB/om
Har - Felix Longoria ~~congrat.~~

LA RADIO DIFUSORA AMIGABLE

K E P O

690 EN SU RADIO

Presenta a su servidor Saul Paredes, con

Las Noticias más Importantes del Mundo

Directamente de las Lineas de La Prensa
Unida

La Mejor Compilación del Mundo

En Español

DOS NOTICIEROS DIARIOS

7:00 A.M. Y A LAS 10:20P. M.

LUNES A VIERNES





EL PASO, TEX.

JANUARY 17, 1949.

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,
U. S. SENATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JAN 19 A.M.

My dear Senator and Friend:

This may surprise you, but I can help writing these few line to tlet your know that I have followed with great interest the regretful incident of the Longoria case in Corpus Christi.

Once again you have proven to the Latin Americans of Texas, that you are a real friend and there is no doubt that you have made a greater number of friends among them.

Your action is a proof of your true convictions and your real unadulterated Americanism. . WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

My brother, Rev. Carlos Paredes, Pastor of the First Mexican Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, has already told me how instrumental you were to him in obtaining the priority he needed in the building of the Mexican Baptist Church in that city.

Of course, you will have lots of critics, but real Texans as well as true Americans will indorse heartily your actions.

We do not demand equality for that is not even possible in nature, but we do demand equal rights as citizens and as human beings.

How well do I remember your words here in El Paso, last November, when you embraced me and told me that: "It is the people like you that have elected me." And in the first opportunity you prove by your actions that your words are sincere and not hollow.

GOD BLESS YOU! And we will be praying for you!! And what is more, we will be anticipating the chance of again casting our vote for you.

Thanking you for your kind attention, and wishing you the best of luck, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Saul O. Paredes

Saul O. Paredes,
Asst. Supt of Money Orders,
U. S. Poat Office,
El Paso, Texas.



KEPO
ABC 690 KC
EL PASO, TEXAS

COPY

January 19, 1969

My dear Friend:

It is somewhat unusual for folks to write their Congressmen and Senators only to express appreciation, but I am very happy and sincerely grateful that you have found some of my actions worthy of your commendation.

My part in this very unfortunate incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

I recall when you left the University and of course I knew of the fine work your wife had done with the Austin schools before your departure. I trust that you are enjoying the new neighborhood in Brooklyn and, if ever there is anything I can do for you in any way down here, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Dr. Rex D. Hopper
310 West End Avenue
New York 23, N. Y.

RB/cm
Felix Longoria—congrat.

Brooklyn College

BEDFORD AVENUE AND AVENUE H
BROOKLYN 10, N. Y.

JAN 19 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

January 17, 1949

Honorable Lyndon Johnson
The Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

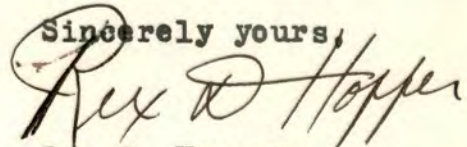
Again I am writing because I want to thank you for something. I am sure that I have remarked before that people too frequently write their congressmen only when they want something or want to "kick" about something. I try to write when I am grateful for something.

The local papers have given quite some attention to your rôle in the case of the Texas-Mexican G.I. whose body was refused burial in the cemetery at Three Rivers, Texas. I simply wanted to say that I am quite proud of you for the stand you took and for the action which resulted. It represents one more bit of evidence that we are growing up as a nation.

I had to leave the University of Texas because of the late "unpleasantness" in connection with the struggle between Dr. Rainey and the Board. But, we have retained legal residence in Texas because we love the state and want to be able to vote there.

My very best wishes to you as you begin your term as senator.

Sincerely yours,



Rex D. Hopper
310 West End Ave.
New York 23, N.Y.

COPY

January 19, 1949

Dear Bill:

I appreciate very much your taking time to tell me what the folks around Kenedy have been saying about my actions on the regrettable incident at Three Rivers.

I was informed of the situation in a telegram from Dr. Hector Garcia at Corpus Christi. I took no action until I had checked the matter by long distance phone calls to Texas. What I finally did was small, but I felt it was the least I should do under such circumstances. Naturally I anticipated some criticism. I learned long ago, though, that nothing is gained by shying away from the course of courageous action merely for fear of what a few critics and distractors might say.

Frankly, I am proud to have had a share in providing for this soldier a decent American burial.

It is good to know that no matter what I do, I can count on the Chestnutt family for 100 per cent support. And I fully appreciate the fine spirit of your letter. If I can ever do anything for you up here, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. William F. Chestnutt
The Kenedy Advance
Kenedy, Texas

HE/cm
Felix Longoria

The Kenedy Advance

MRS. JOSEPHINE CHESNUTT, PUBLISHER

Kenedy, Texas

January 14, 1949

JAN 17 1949

Hon. Lyndon Johnson,
Senate Offices
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon,

I dont mean to be telling you what you should ~~do~~ or should not do, but I would like to let you know what people are saying about you in connection with this case of the returned Latin-American soldier in Three Rivers.


In the first place, there was a big misunderstanding of the whole thing. The funeral parlor at Three Rivers is rather small and the undertaker thought it would be better to hold the funeral services in the local Catholic Church. He had no sooner suggested this when right away, some hot-headed Latin-American jumped to his feet and hollered "PREDJUDICE".

Now that is the whole truth of the matter which I have from both Latin-American and ~~some~~ so-called "white" authority.

I have heard several comments on "Why doesnt Johnson keep his nose out of this affair. It isnt as bad a case of class distinction as he thinks" and also "Tom C onnally sure didnt stick his neck out" and still others which run mostly in the vein of "I voted for him once but I'll be damned if I'll do it again."

Like I say, I am not criticising, only informing. No matter what you say or do, the Chesnutt family is behind you 100 per cent.

Always your friend,



William F. Chesnutt

COPY

January 19, 1949

Dear Nelson:

I am afraid my ability to express my feelings is far too limited to tell you fully how much your note about the Longoria incident meant to me.

My part in this was small, but I was proud to do what I could. It is very reassuring to me personally, Nelson, to know that you, with your great understanding of the Latin-American people, believe I did the right thing. That is what I wanted to do.

Thank you very much for your note. I shall always cherish it.

With my deepest appreciation and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Nelson A. Rockefeller
Room 5600
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N. Y.

bb -- army longoria reburial

Room 5600
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N.Y.

January 13, 1949

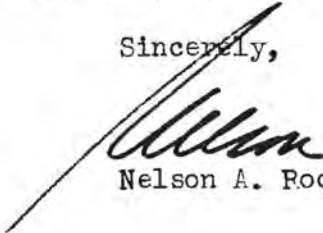
JAN 18 P. M.

Dear Lyn:

The story in this morning's paper of your action on behalf of Private Longoria's widow is one of the most heartening things I've read in a long time. You certainly deserve the sincere thanks of your fellow citizens.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,



Nelson A. Rockefeller

The Honorable
Lyndon B. Johnson
The United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

9
7

January 19, 1949

Dear Ralph:

You don't know how good it made me feel to hear from you this morning. It was a very pleasant surprise, and I am so glad that you feel as you do about my actions in this Longoria case.

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

Give my best to Willye. Bird and I are awfully busy now with inaugural visitors, but I hope you can drop down to see us sometime in the near future.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Ralph J. Watkins
210 East Sixty-Third Street
New York 21, New York

hb/ml
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

RALPH J. WATKINS
210 EAST SIXTY-THIRD STREET
NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

JAN 18 A.M.

January 16, 1949

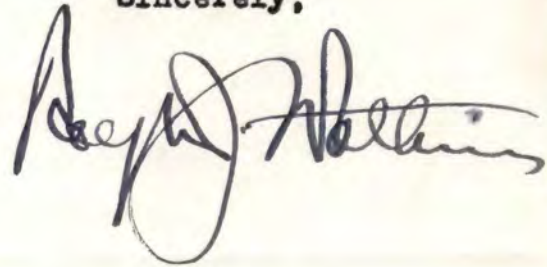
Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

That was characteristically fine and energetic action you took last week in the Three Rivers episode, and Willye and I want you and Bird to know how proud we were to learn of what you had done. It was courageous also, because unfortunately too many of our fellow Texans hold strong prejudices on Tex-Mex issues.

Please accept our congratulations on your prompt and decisive work in upholding the good name of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph J. Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

I really appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter which came in this morning.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

If ever I can be of service to you in Washington, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Charles Berlon
2431 East 18th Street
Brooklyn, New York

hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

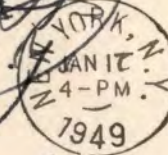
243 / E / 8th St
Senator L. D. Johnson Bklyn. N.Y.
Dear Sir: JAN 18 A.M. 1/16/49

I have read of the shameful act of
the people of Three Rivers, Tex
in denying the burial full
rights of one Tongoria, who gave
his all that the people of
Three Rivers may live and this
country survive. Hail such a hero.
He deserves the burial in Arlington
Cemetery. Would it not be
different if a white American
were denied the sanctity of a
funeral service in a Mexican
funeral parlor etc. We would
be boiling. Is this Christianity
teaching? Oh shame upon the
people of Texas. Bend your knees
you people of Texas, in shame
and repentance.
Chas Berlin

c. Berlin

243/218th St

Bklyn N.Y.



BUILD YOUR FUTURE

WISELY, SAVE

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



U. S. Senator.

Lyndon B. Johnson

Washington
D.C.

January 19, 1949

My dear Friend:

I really appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter and the interest expressed by the American Veterans Committee.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service deserves.

If I can be of service to you or to your organization, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Morris Hecht
Veterans' Affairs
American Veterans Committee
Bedford-Eastern Parkway Chapter
843 Sterling Place
Brooklyn 16, New York

hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix-Reburial

JAN 18 A.M.

AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE

Bedford-Eastern Parkway Chapter

959 Park Place

Brooklyn 13, N. Y.

New address:

843 Sterling Place

Brooklyn 18, N.Y.

January 17, 1949

Senator Lyndon D. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

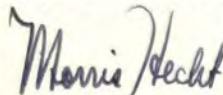
On behalf of the Bedford Easter Parkway Chapter of the American Veterans Committee, it is my pleasure to write to commend you on the exemplary service rendered in obtaining proper burial for Pvt. Longoria of Three Rivers, Texas.

It is our sincere hope that as one of the Senators from Texas, you are exerting the influence of your office to try to avoid our nation's ever again getting a black eye in the international press through such actions as that of the Three Rivers community.

Ever indebted for the services rendered one of our buddies, we remain,

Yours very truly

BEDFORD EASTERN PARKWAY CHAPTER, AVC



Morris Hecht
Vets.' Affairs

MH/rh