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FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
letter	Lyndon B. Johnson to Travis Bryan with attached incoming <i>open 6/6/78 CC</i>	3/23/49	C

FILE LOCATION

Longoria, Felix [Correspondence] 2 of 2

RESTRICTION CODES

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- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

COPY

March 23, 1949

Dear Travis:

Many thanks for the copy of your
correspondence with E. B. McLeroy.

I was very interested in his re-
actions to the Longoria case and am deeply
grateful for your reply.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Hon. Travis Bryan
The First National Bank
Bryan, Texas

jbc dj
longoria case

MAR 22 P.M.

ESTABLISHED 1873



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BRYAN, TEXAS

March 21st
Of Our 76th Year
1949

Mr. E. B. McLeroy
Carrizo Springs, Texas

Dear Mac:

We enclose duplicate deposit slip covering three items to your credit - your letter of the 17th.

Since your account is \$77.91 overdrawn, instead of putting this amount on your note, I am crediting it to your account to get you out of the red ink on the ledger sheet. It doesn't make a great deal of difference anyway, as I still figure you are alive and still get your mail at Carrizo Springs and I am not particularly worried about you yet - when that time comes I will let you know.

In connection with the last paragraph of your letter, I appreciate your apparent interest in the Latin-American case at Three Rivers, Texas insofar as it concerns our mutual good friend Lyndon B. Johnson, presently the Junior Senator from Texas, and the chap whom you went to such extensive lengths to get elected several months ago.

Of course you have had such vast and extensive and prolonged personal experiences with these people that you know perhaps more about them than the average man, maybe even Lyndon B.

Having lived in this community forty years with a very large population not only of Latin-Americans, but of Sicilians, perhaps I would appreciate your remarks about their funeral services more than the average person because Sicilians and Latin-Americans (Mexicans) are almost identical. In a way they are like negroes in that when they "funeralize", brother, unless you have seen it you never understand just what the situation is. At any rate I always am interested in anything that pertains to the standing of my good friend Lyndon and appreciate your frank analysis of the burial situation as it is developing and I hope that he won't get on the wrong side or mixed up in it too much.



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BRYAN, TEXAS

- 2 -

I have developed a procedure for many years with my Sicilians and Mexicans which is to always express a keen interest, but never attend any of their shindigs or funerals on account of the fact that I have to be some other place. In that way I never become entangled in any of their family brawls, misunderstandings or disagreements which is usually the case, even when they go to lay away a dear one.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Travis

Travis B. Bryan, President

Confidential

TBB:mgz

bcc: Senator Lyndon B. Johnson ✓

Dear Lyndon: I am attaching a letter the second paragraph of which might interest you, as well as a copy of my reply to my good friend E. B. McLeroy, Carrizo Springs, Texas. Mac is a good sound kid. He, at my request, went all over the Rio Grande Valley where he knows everyone and having served as a Captain in the Air Corps down there as contact man between the Air Corps and the local citizens, settling any and all claims and making usage of various and sundry tracts of land and other civilian properties, head of the American Legion Post and very active therein all through the Valley, formerly all through that area in Veterans vocational work, formerly travelled through the A. & M. College Extension Service, one of my friends since his days as a student at A. & M., tried to get the Medical Fraternity of Texas, through some friend that he knows, interested in supporting you for office as an organization.

He writes in a little rough vein, but he does not mean anything about it - like the President did when he labeled Mr. Drew Pearson lately and about which some sand was stirred up.

I can assure you that his whole thought in the matter is that nothing should happen in that section that will in any manner detract from your standing with the electorate.

With kindest best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
Travis

AMERICAN LEGION

CLARENCE MCLELEY POST 359

Carrizo Springs, Texas

March 17, 1949

Dear Travis:

Enclosed herewith the following:

Cash	\$60.00
Check (Union State Bank) R.O.Norwood	12.30
Check (Citizens State Bank) W.W.DeLange	7.40
	<hr/>
	\$79.70

You will of course merely apply this on interest of my note- and hope to hell that I send you some more soon. No doubt you have been wondering what kind of a bastard I was- not to have either sent you some money or written to you? At any rate, you are now sure that I am still in the United States and that I still get my mail in Carrizo Springs.

I have had numerous letters on various subjects from our friend Lyndon and I hope that he doesn't get a lot of unfavorable reaction by his active interest in the Longoria case at Three Rivers, Texas. As you know from reading the papers, there is quite a stink over what has been called "racial discrimination" wherein a local undertaker didn't want to handle the funeral of the returned deceased Latin-American veteran. I don't know much about the case, but I do know from my personal experience in the American Legion that damn near every Mexican family whose relatives have been buried in military funerals here are always fussing and fighting among the family as to who and how everything at the funeral will be handled. I had to conduct a funeral here for a Latin-American veteran last week and the family even got so rough that two of the women had a fight on the cemetery grounds- with the Catholic Padre having to separate them. Of course, it didn't concern me personally, but is just an indicator of the high tension that they ordinarily demonstrate. I think it is a helluva deal when an undertaker can't decide for himself as to whether or not he wishes to handle a funeral through his own establishment. There are quite a few folks down this cussing Lyndon for his interest and actions on the Longoria case, but most likely the bastards who are critical are the same ones who voted against him?

Kindest regards,


E.B. McLeroy

COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you very much for your letter telling me of the feelings of the members of your post about the unfortunate incident at Three Rivers, Texas.

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

With my best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Joseph Navarro, Commander
Manuel Perez Post No. 1017
808 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Chicago 8, Illinois

Re -- army longoria reburial

American Legion

MANUEL PEREZ POST NO. 1017



808 W. Roosevelt Rd.
CHICAGO 8, ILLINOIS

JANUARY EIGHTEENTH

1 9 4 9

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

Honorable Senator Johnson:

By now the knowledge pertaining to Pvt. Felix Longoria has been made known to you, so to say that this missive is meant to be informative would be misleading.

However, as Americans let us use this as a means of ironing out our problems.

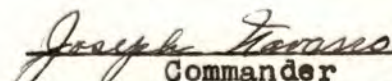
1. Pvt. Felix Longoria was an American soldier who went forth to fight for those American rights we call sacredly ours. As an American he had the right to rest on his laurels in his own hometown of Three Rivers, Texas.

2. The rights of men and America have been violated and as vigilantes against such acts, we ask you who are the guardians of our rights to investigate these conditions that exist so brazenly in the state of Texas and give us a report.

We feel that as fellow soldiers, and veterans of that battle for which our country is still fighting we deserve to be informed.

Very Respectfully,

MANUEL PEREZ POST #1017,


Commander

Enclosed is a letter (copy) of protest we have sent to Mr. T.W. Kennedy of Three Rivers Texas, the funeral director. Also we have acquainted Mr. Walter Winchell with the facts at hand.

J. Navarro

**GI DENIED FUNERAL
IN HOME TOWN WILL BE
BURIED IN ARLINGTON**

Washington, Jan. 12 (AP)—A GI of Mexican ancestry, who was denied reburial facilities in his home town of Three Rivers, Tex., will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National cemetery.

Sen. Johnson (D., Tex.) said today he arranged for the reburial after he was advised by the American GI forum in Corpus Christi, Tex., that a Three Rivers funeral home had refused to handle the soldier's remains "solely because of his Mexican ancestry."

The GI, Felix Longoria, died in action on Luzon in the Philippines.

American Legion

MANUEL PEREZ POST NO. 1017



Mr. T. W. Kennedy
Rice Funeral Home
Three Rivers, Texas

Dear Sir:

Knowledge has reached us of the misdemeanor that you committed against society and American Democracy. When we say American Democracy we have diluted the word Democracy to it's very weakest form which is the type known in the southern part of our country.

Discrimination is a common practice in your part of the country but assuming the part of a ghoul and depriving eternal rest from a deceased body is a new role.

This matter has become a nation-wide football game kicked about with blind abandon. We refer of course to the case of ex-GI Felix Lonforia. Nothing short of physical harm would be a worthy excuse for your action.

His sacrifice was made that you might be able to sit back and keep your business going and make you powerful enough in your own little pond; that you might be the one to decide whether or not you would admit people of Mexican descent or Mexican nationals to be buried from your funeral parlor.

Your act will not go unnoticed. Manuel Perez Post #1017 of the American Legion made of World War II vets send this in a form of a protest. As a comrade we stand behind him, and will do everything in our power to see that something is done.

MANUEL PEREZ POST 1017

COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friends:

I am deeply grateful for the letter which I have just received from you and the members of your staff. It was very thoughtful of you to write, and I wish you would express to all who signed the letter my sincerest appreciation.

My part in the unfortunate and regrettable 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 certainly deserves.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Frank B. Lopes, Superintendent
Santa Fe County Schools
Santa Fe, New Mexico

HB/cm
Felix Longoria

Santa Fe County Schools



Santa Fe, New Mexico

FRANK B. LOPEZ
SUPERINTENDENT

DIEGO DE VARGAS
SUPERVISOR

January 18, 1949

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

Dear Sir:

We wish to take this opportunity to compliment you on your timely and meritorious action in the case of Private Longoria.

We feel that you have not only shown due respect to a war hero, but that you have also greatly improved the status of many of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Diego De Vargas
Rural School Supervisor

Frank B. Lopez
County School Superintendent

Philip R. Rando
Co-ordinator

Helia A. Feron
Chief Clerk

Guillermo Jaramillo
Bookkeeper

FBL/def

COPY

January 25, 1949

My dear Friend:

I am very grateful to you for your kind message about my action in the incident at Three Rivers. Your words make me humble, and I pray for the strength and courage to justify your confidence at all times.

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

With my warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Luciano Santoscoy
1115 South Stanton St.
El Paso, Texas

bb -- longoria reburial

Veterans & Citizens Unity Club

EL PASO, TEXAS

1115 South Stanton Street,
January 22, 1949.

With Active Members
in

YWCA Public
Affairs Forum

Latin American
Progressive Union

City Mayor's
El Paso Improvement
League

V.F.W. Armijo
Post

V.F.W.
Segura-McDonald
Post

JAN 25 A.M.

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

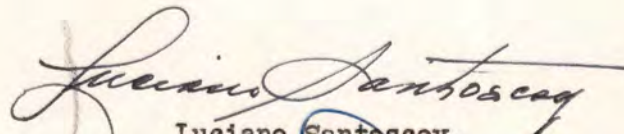
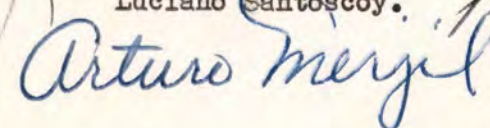
Dear Senator:

We extend our heartiest congratulations to you on your stand in the Felix Longoria case of Three Rivers, Texas. It is a great satisfaction to know that we have in Washington a Senator from Texas who has the interest of all Texans at heart.

This is just another incident in the long list of such malpractices against the Latin element in our State. There are people in this State who ignore that the Latin element has fought for justice and freedom throughout the history of Texas. They have fought against Hitler, against Tojo, against the Kaiser, against Santa Ana, and against every oppressor of human liberty and dignity. They are Texans who have upheld the honor and glory of our State in the battlefield, and have made an outstanding record.

In closing we wish to thank you again for your helping hand. We feel proud to address you as a fellow Texan.

Respectfully,


Luciano Santocoy.


COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very, very thoughtful of you to write such a kind and considerate letter on my actions in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers. I am deeply grateful for your interest, and it is reassuring to know how you feel.

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 unselfish service certainly deserves.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Miss Eunice Dougherty
415-18 Alexander Building
Abilene, Texas

HB/em
Felix Longoria

JAN 21 A.M.

Elliott - Flesher Agency
Real Estate

Insurance - Loans - Property Management - Appraisals

415 - 18 - ALEXANDER BLDG. - - - ABILENE, - - - TEXAS

OFFICE PHONE 28409

18 January 1949

Honorable Lyndon Johnson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are always faced with a full schedule and try to keep up. Doing this leaves us little time for letters to you, but when I read the article in the Reporter-News about the way you handled the situation concerning the soldier who was refused burial in his home town of Three Rivers, I just had to make a note to let you know how very proud of you I am. Three Rivers wasn't good enough for him. You did the right thing. So many times I read of the Latin American problem, as it is called, and I am usually heartsick over the way it turned out. I have lived all over the state and always find wonderful people in any locality, and I would imagine that the Three Rivers people, in general are the same. There has to be some few who never learn the most important things. Pity the poor little guy who calls himself an undertaker. Such a small way to act. And all the time we are "working on" the people of other countries. How they must laugh at us. The Mexican people only need someone to help a little. Someone who can speak their language, and I don't mean the language learned from a book. Sure got a long way to go, haven't we? You got us off to a good start this year, maybe something can be accomplished. You'd think people would have learned by this time how to live together. There's nothing more wonderful than people themselves. And I think the reason for that is that they are all different and must be treated as such. If we had someone to help who wanted to help the people rather than just keep a job, wouldn't it be good? Now that you have got things going in the right direction maybe you will find help and cooperation sufficient to take us a long way on this.

For you, my most sincere thanks.

Very truly yours

Eunice Dougharty
Eunice Dougharty

January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

I certainly appreciate your very kind and thoughtful message about my action in the case of the American C. I. who was denied reburial at Three Rivers.

My part in this regrettable incident was small, but I was proud in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service so rightfully deserved.

If I can ever be of any service to you I hope you will not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Santos Delgadillo
324 4th Street
Port Arthur, Texas

hb/ml
War-Longoria, Felix, Reburial

COPY

JAN 24 A.M.

January 22, 1949

Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senator from Texas
Washington, D. C.

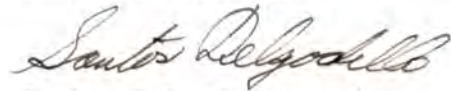
Dear Mr. Johnson:

I wish to express my appreciation to you for your stand concerning the funeral of Felix Longoria, which is very much appreciated by myself and all the Latin Americans who fought for our country.

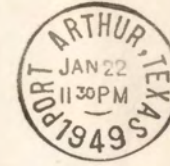
All of my life I have experienced this same discrimination and was wondering if you could do anything in Washington to stop such things that happen here in a free country. I was borned in the United States of Mexican parentage and am a highschool graduate and feel that I am as good as any other man and no better.

I remain,

Very truly yours,


Santos Delgadillo

Santos Delgadillo
324-4th Street
Port Arthur, Texas



Lyndon B. Johnson

U. S. Senator from Texas

Washington, D. C.

COPY

January 26, 1949

My dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful postcard.
Your generous words make me feel very humble.

I am proud to have had a part in providing for
Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial
which his unselfish service deserves.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

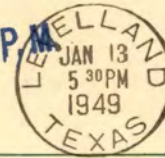
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Rucker
Lovelland,
Texas

Ms de
var-longoria, felix

We would like
congregated late-
afternoon. Died in the
Cable of the Mexican
War. who was killed
in service for our
country. He was
also named for the
Lighthouse was
Missed town of
Texas. who denied
him a hard burial
and so glad
that he could be
buried in our
national cemetery
but for years
some things were success
in it. I hope to see
our country.
Mrs. Mrs D S Rescher

JAN 17 PM



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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

January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

I am very grateful for your kind and thoughtful letter. Your generous words make me feel very humble.

I am proud to have had a part in providing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Hugh H. Anderson
792 East California Street
Pasadena 5, California

cc
war-longoria, felix

COPY

JAN 24

HUGH H. ANDERSON
792 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 19, 1949

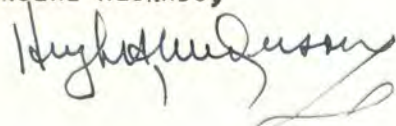
SENATOR LYNDON D. JOHNSON
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

YOUR PROMPT AND COMMENDABLE ACTION
WITH REGARD TO THE BURIAL OF PRIVATE LONGORIA
WILL HELP, AT LEAST, TO ERASE A SUBSTANTIAL
PART OF THE SHAME BROUGHT TO AMERICA BY THE
ACTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THREE RIVERS, TEXAS.

IN THE MATTER OF MAKING THIS BALL OF EARTH A
BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US, I SURELY BELIEVE
THAT SMALL LOCAL VICTORIES IN HUMAN DECENCY
OFTEN COMPARE FAVORABLY IN IMPORTANCE WITH
MILITARY BATTLES WON ON THE FAR FRONTS OF THE
WORLD. I AM SURE MANY PEOPLE IN READING OF
YOUR ACTION WILL SHARE A FEELING OF GOODWILL
AND PRIDE OVER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

WITH SINCERE REGARDS,



January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for taking the time to write such a thoughtful and heartening letter. It means a great deal to me to know that you feel as you do about this action I took.

Actually, my part was small; but I was proud to share in providing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial to which he was entitled. I did it without any thought of labels or classifications for myself. I simply followed the dictates of my heart, which is the best way to do after all.

It was good to hear from you, and I hope you will write again if I can be of service to you in any way.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Edwin A. Elliott, Regional Director
National Labor Relations Board
Sixteenth Region
1101 T & P Building
Fort Worth 2, Texas

bb ds
war-longoria, felix

COPY



NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Sixteenth Region
1101 T & F Building
Fort Worth 2, Texas
January 19, 1949

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

JAN 23 A.M.

My dear Lyndon:

I want to express to you my deep appreciation for the action which you took which led to the burial of Felix Longoria, Texas Mexican war hero, in the Arlington National Cemetery. This healed greatly the wound to his family and to our State made by the refusal of the funeral home at Three Rivers to receive his body there.

This action, Lyndon, on your part proves you to be the kind of man that I have always thought you were. I am very proud of you for doing what you did. This action is proof of your liberal statesmanship, and in reviewing the history of our people who have represented us in high offices I find that only the liberals are those who do have a lasting and honored place in our history.

With kindest personal regards and again thanking you, I am

Sincerely,

Edwin A. Elliott
Regional Director

COPY

January 26, 1949

My dear Judge:

I appreciate deeply your letter of the 17th, as much for the questions you asked as for the very kind words you wrote in regard to my small part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers, Texas.

Insofar as I have been able to determine, the incident did occur. Amid the subsequent publicity, however, there have been numerous denials and "explanations". Many of the leading citizens of Three Rivers have offered their homes for the funeral services and have condemned the "mistake" of the funeral home manager.

Of course, there could hardly be any genuine excuse or explanation for such deplorable action if there was any hesitation whatsoever in arranging for the burial. I do wish to point out, however, that such incidents are newsworthy for their increasing rarity in that section. The people have awakened and have made commendable progress toward a better understanding.

It is not for me to advise, but, as a Texan, I would like to urge that you and your wife continue your plans to vacation in Texas. You may find prejudices there, as you would anywhere in the nation or the world; but I think you will also find a wholesome, heart-warming effort by many Texans to wipe out those prejudices.

With my very best personal good wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable Clifford A. Bishop
Flint, Mich.

hb -- longoria reburial

JAN 20 A.M.



CLIFFORD A. BISHOP
JUDGE

January 17, 1949

Hon. Lyndon Johnson,
United States Senator of Texas,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Mrs. Bishop and I were planning on spending part of the winter in Texas but on last Friday, January 14th, there was an editorial and cartoon came out in the Detroit Free Press entitled Bigotry in Texas. It concerned an incident claiming to have happened at Three Rivers in your State in connection with the attempted burial of a United States Soldier, killed in the defense of his country. The soldier's name was Private Langoria.

To me it does not seem possible that such action could have occurred in the United States and before completing our arrangements for the winter I am very anxious to know whether or not this incident really happened.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the editorial and cartoon in connection with it; also a stamped addressed envelope for reply, and would appreciate it very much if you would let me have an early answer.

I certainly want to compliment you on your stand in the matter, which resulted in this young man receiving the honor that was due him.

Respectfully yours,

Clifford A. Bishop
Circuit Judge.

CAB-b

CLIFFORD A. BISHOP
CIRCUIT JUDGE
FLINT, MICHIGAN



C. A. Bishop,
Circuit Judge,
Court House,
Flint, Michigan.

January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter. I appreciate your kind words about the small part I was able to play in providing for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial which his unselfish service deserves.

Thank you also for sending the clipping from the CHICAGO SUN TIMES. I had not seen it previously and I am very glad to have it in my files.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Martin J. Zayankusky
National College of Chiropractic
20 North Ashland Blvd.
Box 163
Chicago 7, Illinois

Re:
Mr. Longoria, Felix

COPY

Chicago, Ills.
Jan. 18th 1949

JAN 21 A.M.

Dear Senator:

It is with more than ordinary concern that we send you the enclosed article from Today's Chicago Sun Times.

I am certain Felix Longoria and may he rest in peace, does not regret giving his life for all Americans regardless of their color.

We commend you upon your truly "American" assistance in this matter.

As an ex G.I. I personally extend my thanks to a truly great man from the great state of Texas. Keep up the good work!

With Best Regards,

Martin J. Zygmanski, Box 163
National College of Chiropractic,
20 No. Ashland Blvd.,
Chicago 7, Ills.

January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful letter.
Your generous words make me feel very humble.

I am proud to have had a part in providing for
Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial
which his unselfish service deserves.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Lynion B. Johnson

Miss Rose Mae Goldstad
4629 Lexington Avenue
Los Angeles 27, California

lb ds
war-longoria, felix

COPY

JAN 24 1949

Los Angeles, California
January 19, 1949

Dear Senator Johnson:

As an American, I'm very thankful for your sincere and patriotic duty in helping those unfortunate heroes and men who have died to preserve democracy, at least we hope, it is democracy--at home and abroad.

I am, of course, referring to the case of Mr. Felix Langoria, whose story was published in one of our daily papers.

It is most disgraceful to have such reactionary attitude toward class and color distinction.. but as long as we have representatives in our Government of your fine and distinguished character, I'm sure, we will survive as a free and better people.

Very truly yours,

Rose Mae Goldstad
Rose Mae Goldstad
4629 Lexington Avenue
Los Angeles 27, California

COPY

January 26, 1949

My dear Friend:

Many thanks for your post card of the 13th.

My part in this incident at Three Rivers, Texas was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial he so rightfully deserved.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

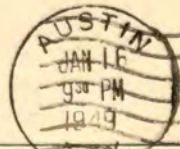
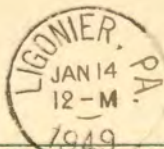
Mrs. R. A. Hardy
Ligonier, Pennsylvania

hb/ahl
War-Longoria, Police-Reburial

Ligonier Pa.
Jan. 13/49

Dear Senator;

Didn't know there were such little
people in Texas, just read that a Mexican
G.I. was refused burial. Wonder where he
went when he died, do not think however that
I have to wonder where the funeral home
fellows will go. Mrs. R.A. Hardy
Ligonier Pa.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
State of Texas

*Washington
D.C.*

FEB 1 a.m.



OVERLOOKING LAKE CLIFF

CLIFF TOWERS

DALLAS

Monday.

Dear Lyndon - Enclosed
clipping from Dallas News
That appeared in Today's
paper - Had a nice
trip & will write a
long letter later -

Love

Saw Houston

CASE OF PVT. LONGORIA

Three Rivers Digs Out Of Blizzard of Abuse

By WICK FOWLER

Staff Correspondent of The News

THREE RIVERS, Texas, Jan. 30. —This little Live Oak County town Sunday was digging itself out of a blizzard of abuse.

Meddling and misunderstanding, say Three Rivers citizens, caused it all.

Criticism struck Three Rivers two weeks ago when it was charged there had been racial discrimination in plans for reburial of Pfc. Felix Longoria, soldier of Latin-American descent who was killed on Luzon.

When the alleged news of discrimination reached Washington, Lyndon Johnson, new junior Senator from Texas, offered to arrange for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Three Rivers citizens didn't like that and have protested against what they called snap judgment. Senator Johnson replied that he was merely trying to help and do his duty.

The Texas Good Neighbor Commission also caused local anger when it entered the case.

State Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers said he would like to see the commission abolished. He likened the commission to a "mother-in-law who keeps things agitated."

The incident reached international scope when the leader of the GI Forum at Corpus Christi, Dr. Hector P. Garcia protested to Washington.

The Forum is an independent organization of veterans of Latin-American descent.

STORY EXPLODES

Dr. Garcia sent a long telegram to Texas officials, to Washington and to other places charging that T. W. Kennedy Jr., an undertaker recently removed to Three Rivers from Altoona, Pa., had refused his facilities here for reburial of Private Longoria.

The story exploded over America and Mexico.

Indignation meetings followed. Abusive letters, some obscene, and telegrams poured into Three Rivers, a South Texas town of 2,000 people, a quarter of them of Mexican descent.

From the Communist party of Texas came demands to the Governor that Undertaker Kennedy's license be revoked.

But some people wrote that they didn't believe the charges. Now many others who sent abuse are offering apologies.

The body of Private Longoria was on the Pacific Ocean in an army casket when the storm broke and spread to international size.

His home town was ready to honor him. It had paid tribute to other dead soldiers brought back home. But so confused was the incident Saturday that nobody hereabouts knew for certain, not even the Longoria family, whether the dead soldier was en route to New York from San Francisco, to Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Worth army quartermasters or Three Rivers. They hope that the original plans for services and burial here will be carried out.

The Washington Bureau of The News found Saturday from Army Department sources that the body was being held at a Bayonne, N.J., quartermaster depot, with instructions to send it to Arlington when a date for the funeral was set by the family. Apparently, the army believes the family wants an Arlington burial.

It seems apparent that Private Longoria, deceased, had become a political issue without a voice to protest the fuss.

Undertaker Kennedy is a good looking young man of twenty-six. He fought in the Ninth Army in Europe with the 102d Infantry Division after training at Camp Swift and Camp Maxey in Texas. He married a pretty Schulenburg girl and they have a 6-month-old daughter.

While crossing the Rhine River on a volunteer patrol Kennedy's boat was shelled. He was wounded and stayed in the icy waters for ten hours. He was seven months in hospital.

"I was reared in Pennsylvania," he said Saturday as he sat on a divan in the living room of his apartment in the funeral home he acquired recently.

"I went to school with Negroes and discrimination has never entered my mind. There were Latin-Americans in my army unit. I buried the first Latin-American boy brought back from overseas to Three Rivers."

VISITED BY WIFE

He said Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, wife of the dead soldier, who now resides at Corpus Christi, came to him two months ago and asked him to handle the reburial services. He suggested that the vacant home that her husband built her be used for the services, he said, because there had been family trouble. She appeared to be satisfied with the arrangements.

"The next thing I knew a man by the name of Hector Garcia called me and demanded this and that," he related. "I got mad and said some things I'm sorry I said. But I told him it was a matter for the widow to decide and that I had never refused my services to anybody."

Seldom do people of Mexican descent use funeral chapels. They prefer their homes or a church.

"I helped the widow send a telegram to the army quartermaster at Fort Worth advising them that I would handle the services. So far as I know the arrangements haven't been changed and they are certainly welcome to use the chapel and anything else I have."

Lupe Longoria, husky brother of the dead soldier, said he regretted "all of the fuss."

"Felix would rather stay buried on Luzon than to come back to all this," he said. There were five boys and three girls in the respected Longoria family.

COMRADESHIP SHOWN

Three Rivers points to the case of Juan Diaz, a high school junior who was paralyzed after a football injury, to show there is good comradeship between the Anglo-Americans and the Latin-Americans. The people raised \$4,000 for the lad to pay hospital expenses and other costs.

There is no segregation here in the school after pupils pass the second grade and overcome language difficulties. The two groups of citizens mingle freely and do business with one another with no apparent thought of difference in race origin.

S. F. Ramsey, president of the chamber of commerce, held a handful of telegrams and letters exchanged with Senator Johnson.

Johnson, in one telegram said his action had not been hasty. In a letter the Senator said he was informed of the discrimination charges by a constituent and that he checked again "at my own expense" with two Texas friends "in whom I have great confidence." Johnson criticized the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce.

"In none of your communications do you deny the facts that were presented to me," he said in a letter.

Ramsey said he had asked the Senator to reveal his sources of information but has received no reply. In one telegram to Johnson the chamber of commerce said: "If you had investigated the matter thoroughly and not accepted Dr. Garcia's report as being factual the matter could not have reached national interest."

COMMERCIAL ART

HOME STUDY COURSES, GI APPROVED
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION
American School of Commercial Art

613½ E. Jefferson

W-6173

Fine
PIANOS

Cash or Easy Terms

Whittle music co.
1108 Elm St. Dallas

COPY

February 1, 1949

My dear Friends:

I appreciate deeply your thoughtful letter about the Longoria case. Your words make me feel very humble.

My part in this matter was small, but I was proud to share in providing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish service surely deserves.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Mason L. Cashion
Young Men's Christian Association
Texas A.M. College
College Station, Texas

Re — Longoria reburial.



MASON L. CASHION, GENERAL SECRETARY
J. GORDON GAY, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

Young Men's Christian Association

Texas A. & M. College
College Station, Texas
January 26, 1949.

JAN 29 P.M.

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

Dear Mr. Johnson-

I wish to express my deep appreciation of your interest and action in the Felix Longoria case. Any American who gave his life for the cause of Democracy shed red blood regardless of the color of his skin.

You have the understanding of a soldier as well as that of a genuine Texan. I am very proud of you as a Senator from Texas. Your example is a grand exemplification of our "Way of Life."

Yours very sincerely,

Mason L. Cashion,
Mason L. Cashion.

COPY

February 3, 1949

My dear Friend:

I was very pleased to have your letter of January 25 and I am grateful for your writing me frankly about your reaction to the Three Rivers incident. For your information, I am sending you a copy of a letter which I wrote this morning which explains rather fully my position in the case.

Frankly, it is a long, long story by now, with any number of people interesting themselves in the matter, but I think the attached letter will pretty well explain my position in the case.

If you have any other questions on the case, I wish you would be good enough to drop me a note because you were certainly correct in saying that I did what I did without any thought of politics one way or another and had no thought that the thing would reach the proportions that it has, although I am sure my actions would have been the same, regardless.

Please don't ever hesitate to let me hear from you about matters like this or anything else in which you are interested.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Enc. (1)

Mr. W. G. Luce
Wheeler and Luce
Tilden, Texas

js/em
Felix Longoria

Wheeler and Luce

HAULING • FEED • GULF PRODUCTS

YOUR



DEALERS

"A Pleasure to Serve You"

Tilden, Texas

JAN 29 P.M.

January 25, 1949

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

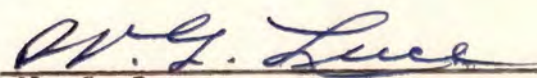
Dear Senator:

I am in receipt of your "reminiscing" letters a few days ago and enjoyed it. I watch the papers with much interest keeping up with you and your activities, and I am looking forward to your accomplishing great things for Texas and the Nation during, what we hope will be, many years of service in the United States Senate.

But for Pete's sake, quit sticking your neck out in situations where you do not first inquire carefully into all angles and get all the information possible from both sides. I fear you have done yourself almost irreparable harm in the Three Rivers situation. I am at a loss to understand all that you said and did in that case. Where you gained votes for the future on the one hand, you lost some strong influence on the other hand. I know that what you did, you did possibly without thought of politics, but do be a little more careful.

I am at your service any time that I may be of assistance to you in your high position of trust and honor. Command me.

Yours very truly,


W. G. Luce

WGL: s

COPY

February 5, 1949

My dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter which reached me this morning in which you were kind enough to commend me for the action I took in the Longoria case.

My part in the affair was a small one, although I was proud to be able to do what little I did.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Student Christian Association
Box 771, T. C. U.
Fort Worth, Texas

jc:sc

War personnel. Longoria, Felix

Student Christian Association
Box 771, T. C. U.
Fort Worth, Texas

Senator Lyndon Johnson
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

FEB 4 P.M.

Dear Sir:

Our S. C. A. wishes to commend you on your action concerning the case of Felix Longoria's burial at Arlington National Cemetery. It will truly go down in the history of our fight against racial discriminations against minority groups of our country.

The program of our association in the recent weeks, has been to discuss and to take action on the problems which confront us in the field of equality of all peoples.

We have found it difficult to find a starting place in this work, but such an example as yours inspires us to dig into the facts and produce results. We know that your work will continue to be on the same ethical standard, consequently, inspiring others to give momentum to the civil rights of their fellow Americans.

We are truly grateful for your Christian service.

Sincerely,

S. C. A.

S. C. A.

rp

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED
			Government	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

February 25, 1949

Mr. Glenn Green
International News Service
Austin, Texas

YOUR MESSAGE VERY INTERESTING. NO COMMENT, DEFINITELY
NO INFO. APPRECIATE INQUIRY. BEST REGARDS.

Horace Busby,

Secretary to
Lyndon B. Johnson
U.S.S.

Official business night letter

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeat message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeat message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeat-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, unless specially valued; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines.

2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Except as otherwise indicated in connection with the listing of individual places in the filed tariffs of the Company, the amount paid for the transmission of a domestic telegram or an incoming cable or radio message covers its delivery within the following limits: In cities or towns of 5,000 or more inhabitants where the Company has an office which, as shown by the filed tariffs of the Company, is not operated through the agency of a railroad company, within two miles of any open main or branch office of the Company; in cities or towns of 5,000 or more inhabitants where, as shown by the filed tariffs of the Company, the telegraph service is performed through the agency of a railroad company, within one mile of the telegraph office; in cities or towns of less than 5,000 inhabitants in which an office of the Company is located, within one-half mile of the telegraph office. Beyond the limits above specified the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will endeavor to arrange for delivery as the agent of the sender, with the understanding that the sender authorizes the collection of any additional charge from the addressee and agrees to pay such additional charge if it is not collected from the addressee. There will be no additional charge for deliveries made by telephone within the corporate limits of any city or town in which an office of the Company is located.

5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in the case of any message except an intrastate message in Texas where the claim is not presented in writing to the Company within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission, and in the case of an intrastate message in Texas the Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties where the claim is not presented in writing to the Company within ninety-five days after the cause of action, if any, shall have accrued; provided, however, that neither of these conditions shall apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934.

7. It is agreed that in any action by the Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.

8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.

9. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

10-42

CLASSES OF SERVICE

DOMESTIC SERVICES

FULL RATE TELEGRAMS

A full rate expedited service.

DAY LETTERS

A deferred service at lower than the full rate

SERIALS

Messages sent in sections during the same day.

NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2 A.M. for delivery not earlier than the following morning at rates substantially lower than the full rate telegram or day letter rates.

CABLE SERVICES

FULL RATE CABLES

The standard fast service at full rates. May be written in any language that can be expressed in Roman letters or in cipher.

CODE (CDE)

A fast message service consisting of words formed without condition or restriction, counted at 5 characters per word. Minimum charge of 5 words applies.

DEFERREDS (LC)

Plain language messages, subject to being deferred in favor of full rate and CDE messages.

NIGHT LETTERS (NLT)

Overnight plain-language messages. Minimum charge of 25 words applies.

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

(01)

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WZ115 DPR PD=AUSTIN TEX 25 1136A=

1949 FEB 25 PM 1 05

:HORACE BUSBY, CARE SENATOR LYNDON B JOHNSON=

:SENATE OFFICE BLDG=

HEAR RUMOR POLITOCO, EX-POLITICO HERE HOPE YOUR BOY
POLITICALLY EMBARRASSED DURING LONGORIA INCIDENT PROBE. ANY
COMMENT? ANY INFO YOUR END? STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. BEST

REGARDS=

GREEN INS=

W. P. L.

FEB 4 A.M. Dallas
Jan 31st

Dear Lyndon:

That unfortunate
affair at Three Rivers
will resolve itself
to become as simple
as this post card.

Do not permit it
to disturb you.

You took the right
position in view of
the information
furnished you.

I will take care of this
at the next State Convention
AMERICAN LEGION. Best wishes
Rome



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Senate office Bldg
Washington, D.C.

COPY

February 18, 1949

My dear Friend:

I am happy that we could be of some assistance to you, and I hope that everything will work out all right for you.

Your information and comments on the Three Rivers incident were very much appreciated, especially since you had the added understanding of a hometown viewpoint. My only role was to inform the widow, as she may already have known, that her husband could be reburied in a National Military Cemetery at San Antonio or at Washington in Arlington Cemetery. The decision, of course, was solely hers, and she chose the reburial site at Arlington.

On Wednesday this week the family was here to attend the services. I met them and was with them during the ceremony. All of the Longorias seemed to be very fine people, and, personally, I was proud to share in providing the boy with the burial he so definitely deserved.

Whenever I can be of further service to you, don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. James T. E. Churchill
2800 B Whitia
Austin, Texas

bb -- longoria reburial

Bushy

Austin, Texas
February 3, 1949

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, 25, D. C.

► FEB 9 A.M.

Dear Sir;

This is to thank you for your efforts and trouble in obtaining my Honorable Discharge for me. The degree of my appreciation is not to be measured by the promptness of my writing this letter of thanks, however. As you can understand, I have been quite busy with finals, term papers, etc. Then too, I have made a rather drastic change in my plans, which has kept me rather busy for the last week.

As you may remember, I had decided to re-enter the service the first of this month. After giving the matter more serious thought, however, my wife and I decided that it would be better in the long run if I were to continue my studies and take my Master of Arts degree. I will be able to complete it by January of next year. I am not sure whether it would not be wise to give up the idea of the service and plan to try for a position with the government as a junior economist or some such position. I have always been interested in government and politics.

I'm awfully sorry to have put you to so much trouble to secure my Review of Discharge in such a limited time and then not use it as I had told you I had planned to do, but I think this is a wiser move.

There is one other matter I wanted to mention. In regards to the unfortunate situation that arose in my home-town of Three Rivers, I was very happy with the steps you took, and feel that any such instances of discrimination should be publicly censured and whatever steps that may be necessary taken. I felt from the first, however, that there was something strange in this case, since the funeral directors at home had never before followed any such line of action. After making a two or three day trip to Three Rivers and talking with my family and many of my friends, I found that my suspicions had been borne out. That is not to say that there was nothing out-of-the-way in the incident. I'm sure there was. The truth of the matter is, however, that the boy's parents and his wife had had an argument over the funeral arrangements and had come to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to have the ceremony in a private home. As to what occurred after that, no one seems to be sure. It does seem strange, however, that the funeral director would refuse to perform the services in the chapel, especially in view of the fact that not only the boy, but his father, Lupe Longoria, and the entire family are very much respected by everyone in town. Lupe is, in fact, the acknowledged leader of the "Mexican Town", both in advice and politics, though he holds no official office.

This is not to say that you should have done other than you did, for had I been in your position I would have done the same thing in all probability. It was the only action possible in view of all the bad publicity, even if further investigation turned up facts to show that the circumstances were not exactly as reported. The town as a whole is rather upset about the situation, not because of the shadow that is thrown on them, but because they feel that the matter was not fully investigated before action was taken. They feel that the criticism levied at them is unjust, especially since the race relations in Three Rivers are by far above the average for a town in that section of Texas, and are constantly and steadily improving. I fear that you have lost much of their support, and although I am sure that if it meant overlooking such discrimination to obtain it you would rather do without it, it might not be a bad idea to make a complete and thorough investigation and then make a public statement of the facts. For not only is the feelings of the people of Three Rivers involved, but those of the entire county of Live Oak and those surrounding.

But who am I to advise you? I am sure that you will follow the path that seems to you best. In any event you have my wholehearted support.

I want to thank you again for your work on my behalf and to say that if I may ever be of any help to you, by all means feel free to call on me.

Again thanks, and I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James T. E. Churchill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "J" and "C".

James T. E. Churchill

COPY

February 15, 1949.

My dear Friend:

I shall always be grateful for the letter you have written me about the Longoria family. They are arriving tonight, widow, daughter, sister, mother and three brothers, and I am having two of my secretaries meet them at the plane. The funeral will be tomorrow afternoon.

If I can ever be of service to you or any of my other friends in El Paso, you may be sure of my best efforts.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mrs. Fred Valdez,

Route #1, Box 236,

El Paso, Texas.

m
war personnel
longoria, felix

FEB 12 P.M.

Route 1, Box 236
El Paso, Texas

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

Dear Sir:

For seeing that our Texas son, Felix Longoria, got a decent funeral, one in standing for the life he gave that we all might enjoy democracy, my deepest congratulations !

For seeing that a Texas son of Mexican descent got the recognition befitting his unselfish service, my hat is off to you !

Your actions verify what we preached when seeking votes for your election. It is gratifying, indeed, to see your purposes and progress come to realization.

We pray the Lord to keep you and guide you for our Nation's sake.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. Fred Valdez

Mrs. Fred Valdez

COPY

February 7, 1949

My dear Friend:

I was very happy to hear from you again, and I want you to know that I am deeply grateful for the generous expression authorized by your Regional Convention.

Again, may I say that my part in the matter was small, but I am proud and thankful that I could do what I did.

I especially appreciate your interest in me now and in the past. It is my hope that we can work together in the future for the good of all Texans.

With my very best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John J. Herrera
United Latin-American Citizens
710 Scanlon Bldg.
Houston 2, Texas

It — a my longoria

FEB 2 P.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

February 1, 1949

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

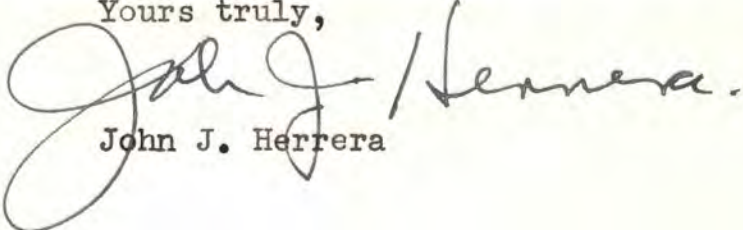
RE: Case of Felix Longoria

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is to advise you that at our Texas Regional Convention here in Houston, Texas, January 29th and 30th, a resolution was sponsored and presented by the Houston Council and myself, thanking you for your attention in the matter of Felix Longoria. The resolution was unanimously passed by all Texas Councils present and as the resolution specified that you be sent a copy of it, you may expect it within the next few days from our mutual friend, Mr. Gus C. Garcia of San Antonio, Texas.

All of your Houston friends and myself wish to congratulate you on your recent victory in the Supreme Court of the United States. With best wishes, I am

Yours truly,


John J. Herrera

JJH:MG

COPY

March 8, 1949

My dear Friend:

I appreciate very much your letter of the twenty-eighth in regard to the reburial of Felix Longoria.

My part in this was small, but I was proud to do what I could to help provide this American soldier with the sort of decent, Christian burial his service deserved.

Your letter was certainly heart-warming.

With my best regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. George Lang
Department of Philosophy
University of Alabama
University, Ala.

hb -- army longoria reburial

Postage

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY, ALA.

Feb 28 1949.

MAR 4 A.M.

Hon. Lyndon S. Johnson,
United States Senator,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Johnson: I want to join all others who feel grateful to you as I do, for your action in securing worthy burial for the Mexican Felix Longoria, who was deprived of honorable recognition by a Texas Burial Home.

I have just read of your action in THE PROGRESSIVE and hasten to assure you of my pride in your action in this case.

Very cordially,

George Lang

George Lang.
Dept of Philosophy.

COPY

February 24, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your postal card.
It made my day much brighter.

I was very proud to be able to do what
I could to relieve the humiliation of the Longoria
family at Three Rivers.

It was a pleasure to hear from you again,
and I hope you will write often.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Mayo Dasey
LoneStar Lane
La Marque, Texas

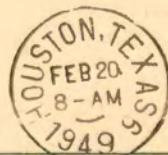
hb/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix, Refutial

Lone Star Lane
La Marque, Texas
Feb. 21 - '49

We your well-wishers and admirers continue to watch your activities with pride. Instances are too numerous to mention, but the case of the Three Rivers lad is a case in point.

Our heartiest good wishes attend you!
cordially,

- Mayo Dwyer



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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

FEB 20 1949

FEB 22 P.M.

COPY

February 23, 1969

My dear Friend:

I was deeply grateful to have your kind post card which reached my desk this bright and fair morning in Washington.

The part I played in the Felix Longoria case was small, but I was glad to share in seeing that this hero ~~received~~ the decent American burial he deserved.

With appreciation for your comments and with very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Harry Culbertson Bailey
Lewisville, Texas

cc
Longoria incident - Bailey, Harry Culbertson

Thank you for your noble action in
the Longoria affair - it was patriotic,
humanitarian and truly American.
"Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead -
Dear as the blood ye gave - FEB 21 A.M.
To impious footsteps e'er shall tread
The herbage of your grave -
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While fame their treasured keeps,
And honor marks the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps."
I am proud of our noble heroes - regardless
of race or creed, for "The world is my country,
to do good, my religion." Harry Culberson Bailey
God Bless U.S.A. & World War Lewisville, Tex.

"Write him as one
that loves his
fellowmen."

used



AIR MAIL-POSTAL CARD



Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington
D.C.

COPY

February 22, 1949.

Dear Johnny:

Some of your constituents
intrigue me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Hon. John Lyle,

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C.

jbe m

war - longoria, felix

FEB 22 A.M.

500 So. Wayne Street,
Arlington, Va.

Glebe 6224

Navy Republic 7400, Ex. 7933

Dear Mary:

I am sending you the enclosed for Johnson's scrap book. It is a lovely picture and a sacred one.

I am sure you are enjoying your new office and your new duties and I wish all of you success.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours

Elizabeth Pangle

E. Pangle

COPY

February 22, 1949.

My dear Friend:

It was extremely thoughtful of you to send
me the clipping of the Longoria boy's funeral at
Arlington National Cemetery.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Miss Elizabeth Fangle,
500 S. Wayne Street,
Arlington, Virginia.

in
war - longoria, felix



Acme Photo

'Unwanted' Veteran Given Hero's Burial in Arlington Cemetery

Accompanied by friends, the family of Felix Longoria (Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria, mother; Mrs. Sara Marino, sister-in-law; Caroline Longoria, sister; his daughter, Adela, 8, and his wife), mourn as he was given a hero's

funeral at Arlington yesterday. Although he died in action, the family had trouble getting an undertaker in Three Rivers, Tex., it was charged, because he was a Latin-American. Gen. Pershing is buried a few yards away.

D. C. Killer Tells Of Third Murder

(Continued from First Page)

licemen who responded to the shooting alarm, Hunter fled to Baltimore, hiding there until election night.

On the night of Nov. 3, detective Sgt. Paul E. Clarke was roused from his bed by an informant who reported Hunter in a restaurant in the 500 block Eleventh St. SE. Clark in not much more than his pajamas, an overcoat, his badge and gun, Clarke sped to the lunchroom, entering with his badge in one hand, his gun in the other.

A careful search of Hunter produced only rifle ammunition.

Alexandria police credited "Richmond underworld sources" with information to the effect that Hunter was the man who slew their fellow policeman, Robert M. Harris, in the early morning of Sept. 11. Several weeks of checking by both departments resulted in yesterday's session at the District jail. Hunter broke after two hours of questioning.

"Cop Made Me Mad"

He went to the Virginia city after ammunition for his rifle, he told the detectives. He carried with him a high-powered German rifle unassembled and the 35-caliber automatic he later used at the theater. He bought his ammunition and hid the automatic in a patch of weeds not far from the corner of Washington and Madison streets while he awaited a bus to return him to the District, he said.

Harris approached him as he stood there, asked him his business there.

"That cop's attitude made me so mad," Hunter recalled yesterday, "I told him my business was none of his business and I ran to the patch of weeds, picked up my rifle and pulled the trigger."

The safety catch was on and nothing happened, except that Harris "kept right on coming for

A.F. Chops Caribbean Bases To Stay Within Truman Budget

By United Press

The Air Force announced yesterday it is reducing its squadrons and bases in the Caribbean area in another cutback aimed at keeping within President Truman's "tight" fiscal 1950 budget.

Three bases will be closed: at Atkinson, Hyde Park, British Guiana; Beane, Bleux Forte, St. Lucia, and Coolidge, St. Johns, Antigua, British West Indies.

Three squadrons will be transferred or retired from active duty, and the civilian personnel of the Caribbean air command will be cut from 8,000 to 3,000.

Second Air Force Cut

The action came as House Speaker Rayburn revealed that many congressmen are "feeling pretty blue" about the high cost of the nation's air power. He made the statement after the congressional "Big Four" discussed the pros and cons of a 70-group Air Force with President Truman.

Rayburn did not say what the President thought about House

plans to provide more planes this year than Mr. Truman asked for. But he said some congressmen who saw the Air Force's big demonstration for the President and Congress Tuesday were depressed because of the high cost of the new machines and the realization "that if we can make them, other people can too."

Yesterday's was the second Air Force cut in the last six weeks. On Jan. 11 the Air Force cancelled \$300,000,000 in jet and transport plane contracts, announcing it would use the money to buy additional B-36 superbombers. While not an immediate cash reduction, the move curtails the Air Force's expansion plans and shifts emphasis to strategic bombardment.

The other services also have announced cutbacks to fit the \$14,268,000,000 defense budget for the 12 months beginning next July 1.

\$12,000 Forrestal Aide

In Congress, meanwhile, the House armed services committee voted to give Defense Secretary Forrestal a \$12,000-a-year under-secretary who would have full authority over the military establishment in Forrestal's absence, and would out-rank the secretaries of Army, Navy and Air.

Forrestal testified he is snowed under by work. He said his duties include supervision of civilian defense planning and "protection against methods of unconventional warfare" such as atomic, biological and chemical attack.

The committee delayed until next week final action on bills to build a \$161,000,000 radar screen around North America and to begin work on a 3,000-mile-long guided missile test range. Both measures have been approved by subcommittees.

Robert Allen to Speak

Col. Robert Allen will speak at the Jewish Community center today at 8:30 p.m. on his book, "Inside Washington." The public is invited.

ADVERTISEMENT

GI Buried Here After Texas 'No'

By International News Service

The body of Felix Longoria, a Texas GI of Mexican descent whose family found trouble in paying him final honor in his home town, was buried yesterday in the resting place of the nation's heroes.

The remains of Longoria, 36-year-old Mexican-American who was killed in action in the Philippines, were interred at Arlington National cemetery.

Attended by the widow, by other members of Longoria's family and by congressional, military and diplomatic dignitaries, the interment rites took place at a mass burial of 20 fighting men whose bodies were brought to Arlington from wartime cemeteries overseas.

The site chosen was but a few paces distant from the grave of General of the Armies John J. Pershing, on a grassy slope overlooking the Potomac river, and known as "Pershing Hill."

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D) of Texas, who arranged the Arlington burial for Longoria, headed the congressional delegation at the ceremonies.

The senator intervened when the undertaker in Longoria's home town, Three Rivers, Tex., denied the family the use of a mortuary chapel for funeral services there.

Relatives asserted that the refusal was due to the heroic soldier's Mexican ancestry. However, the undertaker later declared his decision resulted from a family "feud." The family denied that a feud existed.

Besides the widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, relatives present for the final rites included:

The soldier's 8-year-old daughter, Adelita; his mother, Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria; his brothers, Lupe, Alberto and Alfredo; a sister, Carolina Longoria, and a sister-in-law, Sara Marino.

Senator, Wife Hurt in Crash

MOORESVILLE, N. C., Feb. 16 (UP)—Sen. Johnston (D) of South Carolina was one of four persons injured today in a head-on auto collision near here.

Johnston and his wife were en route from Washington to their home in Spartanburg, S. C., when an auto passing a big trailer-truck on a hill crashed into their car, the State highway patrol reported.



COPY

February 21, 1949

Dear Mack:

Many thanks for your letter of the 17th. I, of course, appreciate your position in the Longoria incident, and I am extremely interested in the information you gave me and I want to thank you. At the same time I wanted to give you what I had at hand and with the thought that you might be able to use it.

I hope that you can watch the boys across the street and their little investigation and keep me posted on what they are doing.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable E. M. DeGaurin
Smullen & DeGaurin
100 East 13th Street
Austin, Texas

jc/mhl
Army-Longoria, Felix Reburial

FEB 21 A.M.

LAW OFFICES
SMULLEN & DEGEURIN
100 EAST 13TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS

JAMES D. SMULLEN
E. M. DEGEURIN

February 17, 1949

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

Dear Senator:

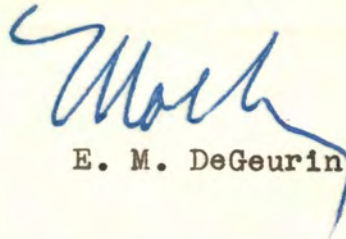
I appreciated your letter of February 8th with reference to the Three Rivers incident.

I had no intention at the time I wrote you about this matter of making it appear that I thought you had done anything but that which should have been done, but I thought you would want to know what some of the people apparently were thinking about the incident.

I enclose several clippings from the Austin paper which appeared yesterday and today.

With kindest personal regards to you and all of the force, I am

Sincerely,


E. M. DeGeurin

EMD: jr
Enc.

MAR 31 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION

CLARENCE MOBLEY POST 359

Carrizo Springs, Texas

March 27, 1949

copy

Senator

Longoria

Mr. Travis B. Bryan, Pres.,
First National Bank
Bryan, Texas

Dear Travis:

In furtherance of the discussion of the Longoria case (and comments on same as they may concern Lyndon) I note the contents of your most recent letter, and wish to advise that I accidentally gathered some additional information on the same topic in an American Legion meeting at Eagle Pass this week-end. There were Legionnaires present from Carrizo Springs, Crystal City, Natalia, Dilley, Asherton, Eagle Pass, Uvalde, Pearsall, Dilley and San Antonio. In the course of our small gatherings after our business session someone brought up the subject of the Longoria case and several of the fellows were very frank (as usual among Legionnaires and Aggies) in getting their opinions off their chests. Personally, I took occasion to keep out of the discussion until I could gather the trend of their thinking as I knew all of the fellows personally by frequent contacts. It developed that most of them had secured the basic facts of the case and were of the opinion that the Undertaker involved was merely trying to avoid trouble- which seems to go along with many Latin-American funerals in this area. Henry Palmie (who voted for Lyndon while his wife was working for Coke) was quite outspoken in criticism of the action of the State Legislature in making such a big issue of the matter. Palmie is one of my best friends and a most active and widely known World War I veteran from San Antonio and I had him in my room at Eagle Pass hotel for an extended discussion of the matter. The first thing that I found out from him was that he is for Lyndon- first-last and all the way. He has been hearing some of the same remarks about Lyndon's alleged intervention in the Longoria case and believes, as most of the other veterans in our meeting did, that it is mostly just a lot of post-election tripe from the Coke die-hards who would condemn Lyndon on any score that might hurt later. However, the thing that I want Lyndon to know now is that the whole group of veterans in attendance at our meeting were a great deal disturbed over the matter- but united in their support of the action of the Undertaker involved. To express it in another way, they seemed to think that there was absolutely no discrimination and that the fellow was just a little blunt in letting the Longoria clan know that he didn't want to get mixed up in a family brawl, etc. After all, if the fellow owned his business, he should have the privilege of choosing his customers? They tell me that this is one of the countries left on the face of the earth where you can do that sort of thing? The Postmaster (veteran) at Natalia has investigated thru friends at Three Rivers and told me that the whole thing "stinks" insofar as proof of discrimination.

AMERICAN LEGION

CLARENCE MOBLEY POST 359

Carrizo Springs, Texas

Longoria case- continued-

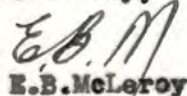
I am very glad (and really expected you to do it) that you sent information to Lyndon that I have previously conveyed to you on the matter. After all (with the plurality so close) it is not amazing that Lyndon has plenty of opposition. I am very gratified that I had an opportunity to address our gathering of veterans in Eagle Pass this week-end and tell them in sincere words that I have never been lacking as a County Veterans Service Officer in getting cooperation from Lyndon on claim cases- and I never hesitate to ask for his aid when the Veterans Administration gets into their regular "red tape" and "buck passing" attitude on legitimate claims.

I know that neither Lyndon nor our 15th District Congressman, Lloyd Bentsen, can perform miracles, but both of them will tell you that I damn sure call upon them and express my sincere viewpoints on a variety of things- leaving the decision and action to them in accordance with their powers and restrictions. I have just completed a series of letters to Bentsen concerning a little matter in which he almost called me a bastard (in legal terminology of course) and we are quite in agreement at this time in our thinking for the benefit of those other than ourselves. As I may be repeating- I don't mind someone calling me a son-of-a-bitch, but I will damn sure begin to worry if anyone can ever prove it? Both my wife and myself worked as hard to get Lyndon and Lloyd elected as you and myself worked to get rid of Gib Gilchrist- but we had a little better luck on Lyndon and Lloyd?

In conclusion, I want to thank you for keeping me informed on your views- which I highly respect- and it is superfluous to say that I concur with you in most everything that concerns the benefits of those in whom we place our trust. We are both no less vehement in expressing our opinions about those whom we dislike? According to Dale Carnegie, we may not be winning too many friends and influencing too many people- but we can damn sure rest peacefully at night as long as we don't change our general methods of dealing with our fellowman?

Kindest personal regards to you.

Sincerely,


E.B. McLeroy

cc-Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson

January 27, 1949

Dear Mike:

You don't know what a pleasure it was to see you in the Mayflower the other night. I thought then of the many pleasant days that we spent while serving together in the House. I miss many of the old friends and associations I made since I moved across the street.

Mike, the part I played in the Longoria thing was a very small one, but it was one that I took pleasure in performing and one in which I hope my action will have a lasting effect for good rather than make situations like this one worse.

My warmest personal regards always,

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable Michael J. Bradley
Collector of Customs
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Jo de
war-longoria, felix



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

PHILADELPHIA 6, PA.



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
DISTRICT No. 11

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THIS OFFICE TO THE COLLECTOR

January 25, 1949.

IN REPLY REFER TO: MJB:B

JAN 26 A.M.

Dear Lyndon:

I am enclosing an editorial from the Philadelphia 'Inquirer' published about 10 days ago. The 'Inquirer' is strictly a Republican paper and for that reason I was all the more pleased with the editorial concerning you. It is just the kind of a thing that your friends know you would do, and may I add my own humble but sincere praise to what the 'Inquirer' has said for this act of kindness on your part which not only offset the intemperate attitude of others but which also undoubtedly brought happiness to the loved ones of this boy who gave his life for his country.

All good wishes for a successful term - which I know you are going to have and which I am sure will reflect credit upon your State and upon yourself.

With warmest regards, I am,

Very sincerely,

Michael J. Bradley
(Collector of Customs).

*Saw in mayflower -
served with him*

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,
Washington,
D. C.

Bigotry Toward War Dead

The arguments against discrimination in the cases of men who gave their lives for their country in war are so strongly evident that it is cause for genuine surprise that there should ever be occasion to repeat them.

Yet the case of the refusal of a funeral home in Three Rivers, Texas, to handle the burial of a soldier of Mexican ancestry "because white people might object" is a reminder that bigotry is less a matter of logic than of emotional prejudice.

It may be doubted that the Texas funeral home spoke for all the "white people" when it spurned pleas of the dead soldier's relatives that he be buried near his home. Certainly all the citizens of Three Rivers can't be so blind that they fail to see that patriotic sacrifices knows no racial or religious barriers.

In this case the episode ends on a note of justice. Thanks to the intercession of Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, the body of the soldier, Felix Longoria, will be buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

But this does not relieve the Texas funeral home of criticism for its disgraceful attitude. Nor does it condone the existence of prejudices offered in weak justification of that attitude.

The soldier's grave in Arlington will be more than a resting place for one who died for his country. It will stand as a silent rebuke to the bigotry which made it necessary to bury Felix Longoria far from his home.

COPY

January 27, 1949

My dear Friend:

Your thoughtful letter and kind expressions make me feel very humble.

My part in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers, Texas was small, but I was proud to share in making possible for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian burial which his unselfish and patriotic service deserved.

I shall always cherish your letter, and I deeply appreciate the spirit in which it was written.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John Morales, Secretary
Federation of Mexico Society of Latin-Americans
207 Charles Street
Houston, Texas

hb/dhl
Army-Longoria, Felix, Reburial

FEDERACION DE SOCIEDADES MEXICO LATINO AMERICANA
207 ST. CHARLES
HOUSTON, TEXAS

JAN 27 1949

January 19, 1949

THE HONORABLE SENATOR LYNDON JOHNSON,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Reference: Case of :

Felix Longoria, Soldier,
Three Rivers, Texas

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to subject case in which you honorably took active action.

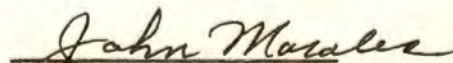
This communication on behalf of our society is to express appreciation for your services in rendering justice to a patriotic and humane cause.

The result which this case ultimately produced has had no small effect on our fellowmen. It is heart warming to realize that gradually, our nation is following a pattern of Judicious intent in solving society's problems of human prejudices; a pattern being set by men such as you.

The wide spread coverage of this case taking to the people of our state and country the story of the military honors given this soldier of the United States and the courtesies extended to his family will long be remembered as true Americanism. Your own deeds will not go unheralded.

Again, from an appreciative people-- THANKS.....

Sincerely yours,


John Morales, Secretary

Original copies to:

The Honorable Governor Beauford Jester
Mr. William Smith

COPY

January 26, 1949

My dear Mr. Rabe:

Thank you for your letter of January 20th with the enclosed tearsheet from the THREE RIVERS NEWS. I assume from your letter that you don't know all the facts and the small part that I played in the Longoria case.

I received a wire setting forth an incident that happened in Three Rivers, Texas. After receiving the wire I wanted to do what I could to be helpful, but at the same time refrain from doing anything that would be out of keeping. Consequently, after receiving the telegram, I called Texas and talked to two very honorable, objective, intelligent men in whom I have great confidence. They had already heard about the incident, had investigated it and substantially verified the facts that were set forth in the wire to me, whereupon I sent a telegram advising the body of Felix Longoria could be buried in either the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington or in the National Military Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston. I made no recommendation of where the body should be buried and simply asked that the next of kin (in this case Mrs. Beatrice Longoria) advise me her wishes in the matter.

She wired me that she was happy to accept the offer of the United States Army to have the funeral in the Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. For the action that I took or the manner in which I did it, I have no apologies to make. I want to make it clear to you that I did not release the story here, the entire publicity originated in Texas. I had no control over it and had no desire to have any connection with the affair except to see that an American soldier was given a decent burial under honorable conditions.

I have no personal interest where the boy is buried. That is a matter for his wife to decide. Consequently, after advising her that either of the above two places were available as a burial place for her husband I have taken no further action in the matter.

In a letter from the President of the Chamber of Commerce, he admitted that "Mr. Kennedy made a mistake".

COPY

Page No. 2

In the second column of the paper which you sent me, I notice where Mr. Kennedy says he made "other statements that could possibly be misconstrued". He goes on to say "I can only defend myself for the fact that I was unjustly accused and angry when I made that statement. Mr. Kennedy continues "I freely admit that in the excitement, I made statements that I would be happy to retract".

In all of my communications from the people of Three Rivers, not a single one has undertaken to give me the facts as they understood them to be, but on the other hand they have gone out of their way to be critical of my actions without knowing anything about the information that I had.

I trust that the above information will give you some facts that you didn't otherwise have and that you will understand and appreciate my position in the matter.

Sincerely

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Glen Habe
Three Rivers, Texas

jc;gs War - Longoria Felix

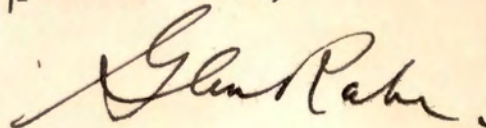
Three Rivers, Tex.
Jan. 20, 1949.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
Dear Senator

Please accept the marked page from the Three Rivers
News sent by Glen Rabe, a voter of Texas.

I believe you did more harm for the state of Texas
in five minutes of unguarded speech than you can undo in the
few years and possibly a very few you are a U.S. Senator.

Your disappointed voter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Rabe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Glen Rabe" which appears to be part of the same line of text.

Three Rivers

VOLUME NO. 59

Three Rivers, Live Oak County, Texas, T

THREE RIVERS REPLIES

"Know The Truth"

Citizens of Three Rivers are going all out to tell the world the truth about the situation which, within the past ten days, has brought censure on this town, community and State.

The report was published last Tuesday, by newspapers and radio, that T. W. Kennedy, Jr., a local undertaker, had refused to re-bury the body of Felix Longoria, a returned war hero, because he was of Mexican ancestry. Since that time, city officials, postmaster, newspaper editor, officials of the Chamber of Commerce, and other residents of Three Rivers have received derogatory, abusive and, in some cases, obscene letters from persons from many parts of the nation. Letters have also been received from persons who understand the situation and who lay the blame where it belongs.

That all may know the facts, we herewith publish statements written and signed by persons most concerned and giving a complete account of the situation:

LONGORIA'S BODY WILL BE BURIED IN ABOUT 30 DAYS

The erroneous report has gone out that the body of Felix Longoria was actually returned to Three Rivers and refused admittance to the funeral home here. THE FACT IS THAT HIS BODY WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO ON JANUARY 13 AND WILL REACH ITS FINAL DESTINATION APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN AMERICA.

The people of Three Rivers hope to arrange to have his burial here.

STATEMENT BY THREE RIVERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In a meeting of the board of directors of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday afternoon a resolution was adopted deploring the unfavorable publicity that the City of Three Rivers and its citizens have received through the publication of misconstrued facts concerning the reported refusal of local undertaker, T. W. Kennedy, Jr. to bury one of our fellow-townsmen, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945.

tary honors at the funeral.

Arrangements were made to furnish firing squad, color bearers, color guard and bugler from American Legion Post 413 and pall bearers would be furnished by the family.

(Signed) Lupe Longoria, Jr.
Alberto Longoria.

Harold C. Smith, Commander
American Legion Post 413.

MR. KENNEDY'S STATMENT

About two months ago Mrs. Longoria, the deceased's wife, came into our office and asked if we would handle the services for her husband, who was to be shipped home within the next six months. We told her at that time that we would handle the service, and on January 8th she came to the bus depot and called me, stating that she had two telegrams concerning the arrival of her husband. So, in order to accommodate her, I drove to the bus depot and talked with her about arrangements. She asked to have the remains left at the Funeral Home, and at that time I tried to discourage her of that by asking if there was any place else she could take the remains to. She said she had an empty house in Three Rivers and so I asked her if it would not be better to take the remains there. She said she was satisfied to do that and so we then went and sent a reply to the telegram to Fort Worth depot, confirming the previous address as to where the remains were to be sent. After that we went by the house that she had mentioned, to examine and plan as to where the casket and chairs could be put, and after completing that I took her to her uncle's house and before leaving asked again if she was satisfied and again she stated that she was. She took the bus for Corpus Christi and it is my assumption that, apparently, her parents did not like the arrangements. However I was not contacted by members of the family at that time. Instead, Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi called me. As we talked our conversation became rather heated. It was my understanding that no one except Mrs. Longoria, or someone duly authorized by her, was in a position to make any arrangements for this funeral. I so stated to Dr. Garcia, and in the heat of the argument undoubtedly made other statements that could possibly be misconstrued. I made the statement that

trouble in the funeral chapel. I felt that by encouraging her to use her own house it would be up to her to handle any situation that might come up.

However, if Mrs. Longoria had mentioned any dissatisfaction with these arrangements, I would have been glad to work out almost anything that would have been satisfactory to her.

I wrote Mrs. Longoria and Dr. Garcia letters, stating that there was a misunderstanding, and that if I was in the wrong, then my apologies were extended. A copy of her answer appears below.

I have been honored to handle all of the funeral services for veterans of Mexican descent in this area up to this time, and will do my best to handle them in a proper manner in the future.

I freely admit that in the excitement I made statements which I would be happy to retract, but feel that I have been misquoted and misjudged. I am indeed proud that so many of my new neighbors are willing to forget my mistake. I am not a native of Texas, but I am proud to be called a Texan!

(Signed) T. W. Kennedy.

LETTER FROM MRS LONGORIA

January 14, 1949.

Rice Funeral Home,

T. W. Kennedy, Jr.

P. O. Box 328,

Three Rivers, Texas.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated Jan. 12 which I received today. I want to thank you for your offer, however, I feel that it is still too late.

My husband will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C. My thanks and gratitude to the people of Three Rivers for their sentiment on the matter.

I want to let you know that I bear no grudge and still think greatly of all of the people from Three Rivers. I am sorry about the whole matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

C. of C. to

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Hon. Lyr

United St

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Glen A. Rabe 10-49

Three Rivers News

Live Oak County, Texas, Thursday, January 20, 1949

NUMBER 33

LIES An Open Letter to Senator Johnson

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
Dear Senator

Your answer to certain telegrams sent you from Three Rivers, relative to the burial of Felix Longoria, has caused considerable doubt in the minds of some of your supporters as to whether or not you really are representing all of the people in this matter.

In answer to one of these telegrams you stated, "No action of mine has enforced any stigma on anyone." Kindly read the editorial from the Detroit Free Press, study the cartoon and draw your own conclusion.

Previous to your action, not one word had been said in Three Rivers as to where this American soldier would be buried, other than the Longoria family lot in the Three Rivers Cemetery, where his father and family, would have liked for him to rest, where the citizens of Three Rivers, Veterans and all others would have given him an American soldier's burial in his own native town.

This was to be the return of the body of one of our citizens who had given his life for his country and before this situation developed, arrangements had been made by the brothers of Felix with the local American Legion Post for a military funeral. Arrangements that were no different from any other burial of any other American soldier. Officers of the post have informed us that the burial detail, firing squad and even pall bearers had been arranged for and even now are alerted for they have never been informed that the body would not be buried here.

Therefore, Senator, you can very easily understand why the citizens of Three Rivers were so stunned when over the radio and in the papers came reports that you had made arrangements to have Felix buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This, then, had become national news—wires and letters began coming in—not to Mr. Kennedy who had made the mistake—but to the Chamber of Commerce, citizens of Three Rivers, the Mayor and others blaming

not Mr. Kennedy, but all citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and the State of Texas.

We certainly do not uphold Mr. Kennedy in his answer to Garcia and the newspaper when he was called by telephone and told how to run his business and in stating that the "whites wouldn't like it." Mr. Kennedy is a young man and anxious to succeed in his business, having purchased the business on January 1, 1949, so when these calls came in after he had made acceptable arrangements with the widow of Felix, his reaction was probably the same as yours—without first finding out all the facts he more or less lost his head and said things of which he is now very sorry.

In view of these facts some are wondering why you so promptly informed certain people outside of Three Rivers that you would see that Felix was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, or words to that effect.

If you could read some of the vile letters that we businessmen and officials are receiving blaming the citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and State of Texas, you could not but feel that you had some part in it.

Of course no one here expects to tell you how you should run your business, but it does seem reasonable to believe that had you thought of us as you seemingly thought of others you could have at least requested an explanation from one of our city officials. Had this come to pass Felix would still have a chance to be buried in Three Rivers as we citizens want him to be, his family and friends in Three Rivers would be happy, his friends and relatives from surrounding towns could still come to visit his grave, and he would rest peacefully in his native town, where all men are treated fair and equal.

We have always respected the law-makers of our country and have been proud of the men we have sent to Congress—please do not let us down.

Respectfully yours,
Cecil Cunningham,
Della Goebel
Editors

Live Oak County Report

by Della Goebel

Three Rivers lays claim to being a town where there is harmony among its citizens.

There has never been strife here among residents of different race origins. We resent and deplore the unfavorable publicity which has gone abroad concerning our town. Action following the recent Felix Longoria incident was occasioned mainly to serve selfish interests of persons who either wished to pay political debts or who wished to stabilize their position in public opinion. We doubt that such a project ever does react favorably to the instigator.

Anyone who knows this community knows that its spirit is one of co-operation.

CARE GIVEN INJURED MEXICAN BOY

A case in point is the manner in which Juan Diaz, a local boy, was cared for after he was injured in a High School football game. Juan is an American boy of Mexican descent. His parents are tenant farmers. In November of 1947, while Juan was a member of the junior class of the local High School and a member of the football team, during a game played with Poteet on the evening of November 14, he was seriously injured and, for a time, was totally paralyzed. Immediately following his injury, Juan was taken to the local hospital and given every attention. These included the services of a specialist from San Antonio who came here to the hospital regularly and assisted local doctors in treating Juan. He was furnished a special nurse for three months that he remained in the hospital. His medical and hospital bills of \$3,000.00 was paid out of local Public School funds.

At Christmas time, the local Rotary Club sponsored a donation which amounted to \$1,065.24 and was presented to Juan to be used in purchasing arthopedic devices or other aids to be used in his convalescence. J. A. Gurwitz who collected this fund, reported to the Rotary Club that "It was a pleasure. Everyone contacted donated cheerfully and generously; everyone was glad to express his good wishes for Juan's recovery."

Following this presentation, Juan authorized the following statement in the local newspaper, "Juan Diaz wishes to express here his thanks to his friends for their gifts and

School Cooperates
In March Dimes

New Chevrolet
On Display

to

herewith publish statements written and signed by persons most concerned and giving a complete account of the situation:

LONGORIA'S BODY WILL BE BURIED IN ABOUT 30 DAYS

The erroneous report has gone out that the body of Felix Longoria was actually returned to Three Rivers and refused admittance to the funeral home here. THE FACT IS THAT HIS BODY WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO ON JANUARY 13 AND WILL REACH ITS FINAL DESTINATION APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN AMERICA.

The people of Three Rivers hope to arrange to have his burial here.

STATEMENT BY THREE RIVERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In a meeting of the board of directors of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday afternoon a resolution was adopted deploring the unfavorable publicity that the City of Three Rivers and its citizens have received through the publication of misconstrued facts concerning the reported refusal of local undertaker, T. W. Kennedy, Jr. to bury one of our fellow-townsmen, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action in the Phillipines in 1945.

The directors went on record as saying that the Longoria family is held in the highest esteem here and it is regrettable that this situation has developed; that no town in South Texas enjoys better relations with Americans of Mexican descent than does Three Rivers; and that since the above mentioned report has gone out over the State and Nation it has become necessary for Three Rivers to clear its good name.

A good many letters have been received from people throughout the State acquainted with the actual conditions in Three Rivers expressing their disgust with the adverse publicity that Three Rivers received. These people who know the actual conditions voiced their opinion that Three Rivers has been grossly misrepresented.

We still feel that the hasty action of Senator Johnson was largely responsible for this unfavorable publicity and attracted it to national interest. As far as we know, Senator Johnson did not contact one single person in Three Rivers before taking this action.

(Signed) S. F. Ramsey, President,
Three Rivers Chamber
of Commerce.

STATEMENT BY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO 413 THREE RIVERS, TEXAS

January 19, 1949

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the undersigned went to Harold C. Smith, Commander American Legion Post 413 Three Rivers, Texas on Jan. 10, 1949 to ask for military honors at the funeral of our deceased brother Felix Longoria, killed in action on Luzon.

Commander Smith promised mili-

with her about arrangements. She asked to have the remains left at the Funeral Home, and at that time I tried to discourage her of that by asking if there was any place else she could take the remains to. She said she had an empty house in Three Rivers and so I asked her if it would not be better to take the remains there. She said she was satisfied to do that and so we then went and sent a reply to the telegram to Fort Worth depot, confirming the previous address as to where the remains were to be sent. After that we went by the house that she had mentioned, to examine and plan as to where the casket and chairs could be put, and after completing that I took her to her uncle's house and before leaving asked again if she was satisfied and again she stated that she was. She took the bus for Corpus Christi and it is my assumption that, apparently, her parents did not like the arrangements. However I was not contacted by members of the family at that time. Instead, Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi called me. As we talked our conversation became rather heated. It was my understanding that no one except Mrs. Longoria, or someone duly authorized by her, was in a position to make any arrangements for this funeral. I so stated to Dr. Garcia, and in the heat of the argument undoubtedly made other statements that could possibly be misconstrued. I made the statement that as far as I knew the chapel had never been used for such a burial. That it had not been the practice. As far as I know the use of the funeral chapel had never before been requested by any person of Mexican descent, so naturally, this permission has never been refused. So I stated that "it has not been the practice," and if I was wrong I apologize. I did not wish to change the practice for this particular funeral and so stated.

There were reasons why I "discouraged" the use of the funeral chapel. There is considerable evidence to the effect that there has been trouble between the wife of Felix Longoria and the rest of the family, including his parents. For very apparent reasons, I did not wish to bring this out at that time, and refrained for some time, but in all fairness to myself I believe that should be stated now. I did not want trouble in the funeral chapel. In that connection I felt that Mrs. Longoria would or should be able to handle the situation in her own house, but, inasmuch as I could not deny the entrance of anyone at the chapel it might lead to family trouble.

I did use the word that the "whites would not like it." I was referring to the fact that the "whites" would not like the disgrace of a public disturbance at a funeral in the chapel. I humbly apologize for the use of the word "whites." I can only defend myself by the fact that I was unjustly accused and angry when I made that statement.

I was contacted by other members of the family. They asked me to notify them of the arrival of the body, and the funeral date, as they were not sure that they would be notified. This only intensified my desire to not have

I am indeed proud that so many of my new neighbors are willing to forget my mistake. I am not a native of Texas, but I am proud to be called a Texan!

(Signed) T. W. Kennedy.

LETTER FROM MRS LONGORIA

January 14, 1949.

Rice Funeral Home,
T. W. Kennedy, Jr.
P. O. Box 328,
Three Rivers, Texas.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated Jan. 12 which I received today. I want to thank you for your offer, however, I feel that it is still too late.

My husband will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C. My thanks and gratitude to the people of Three Rivers for their sentiment on the matter.

I want to let you know that I bear no grudge and still think greatly of all of the people from Three Rivers. I am sorry about the whole matter.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

C. of C. to Meet Monday Nite

The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday evening at the Rotary building. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and will precede the business session.

During the evening a sound film entitled "A Letter from America" will be shown.

Rainbow Girls Install Officers Monday Night

The Three Rivers Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, held installation service on Monday evening at Masonic Hall.

Ivas Freeman was installed worthy adviser; Alice Brown, worthy associate adviser; Jeanne Ludwig, Charity; Leatrice Garrison, Hope; Betty Casey, Faith; Shirley Brown, treasurer; Janice Freeman, recorder; Joan Furr, outer observer; Betty Stendebach, confidential observer; Patsy Montgomery, musician; Jean Stafford, drill leader; Marian Ruth Harris, chaplain; Barbara Brown, choir director.

Members of the advisory board were also installed. They were Mrs. M. T. Buckaloo, Mrs. Lee Pope, Mrs. C. D. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Montgomery, N. W. Lasseter, Mrs. Della Goebel was installed mother ad-

town. This was to body of one of given his life before this situation. Arrangements have been made by the brothers of the American Legion funeral. Arrangements for a different burial of a soldier. Officer formed us that squad and even been arranged alerted for the funeral. Therefore, S. easily understood. Three Rivers over the radio reports that you want to have I ton Cemetery.

This, then, is news—wires are being in—not to made the mistake of Commerce Rivers, the May

School C In March

R. E. Stafford announces that the Public School is holding a traditional March-off. Following is a letter taking home to To Parents and Three Rivers.

The time has come of us is privilege the March of Dimes.

Due to the great last year the need before, and each give liberally to help raise its quota. More than \$2,000 was raised in this county. \$951.25 raised in half of the money. The county will be given the medical.

We hope to make a contribution through the school that every child will be given a prize by giving the most.

With 20 months of those months spent G. Garcia of Callahan. Mrs. Joe Garcia Army for three years his desire to learn reduced him to sign

viser. Guests present: R. W. Freeman, M. Brown, Lee Pope, ther Casey.

ed and misjudged that so many of are willing to I am not a na- I am proud to T. W. Kennedy.

RS LONGORIA
January 14, 1949.

wledge your letter ch I received to- ank you for your eel that it is still

be buried in Ar- metery, Washing- ks and gratitude Three Rivers for the matter.

know that I bear think greatly of om Three Rivers. he whole matte. yours, atrice Longoria.

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sssembly, Order rls, held instal- day evening at

installed wor- wn, worthy as- Ludwig, Char- Hope; Betty Brown, treas- recorder; Joan Betty Stende- server; Patsy ; Jean Staf- an Ruth Har- rown, choir di-

ory board were were Mrs. M. Pope, Mrs. C. and Mrs. J. K. Lasseter, Mrs. led mother ad-

soldiers burial in his own native town.

This was to be the return of the body of one of our citizens who had given his life for his country and before this situation developed, arrangements had been made by the brothers of Felix with the local American Legion Post for a military funeral. Arrangements that were no different from any other burial of any other American soldier. Officers of the post have informed us that the burial detail, firing squad and even pall bearers had been arranged for and even now are alerted for they have never been informed that the body would not be buried here.

Therefore, Senator, you can very easily understand why the citizens of Three Rivers were so stunned when over the radio and in the papers came reports that you had made arrangements to have Felix buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This, then, had become national news—wires and letters began coming in—not to Mr. Kenedy who had made the mistake—but to the Chamber of Commerce, citizens of Three Rivers, the Mayor and others blaming

officials are receiving blaming the citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and State of Texas, you could not but feel that you had some part in it.

Of course no one here expects to tell you how you should run your business, but it does seem reasonable to believe that had you thought of us as you seemingly thought of others you could have at least requested an explanation from one of our city officials. Had this come to pass Felix would still have a chance to be buried in Three Rivers as we citizens want him to be, his family and friends in Three Rivers would be happy, his friends and relatives from surrounding towns could still come to visit his grave, and he would rest peacefully in his native town, where all men are treated fair and equal.

We have always respected the law-makers of our country and have been proud of the men we have sent to Congress—please do not let us down.

Respectfully yours,
Cecil Cunningham,
Della Goebel

Editors

School Cooperates In March Dimes

R. E. Stafford, superintendent, announces that the Three Rivers Public School is cooperating in the national March-of-Dimes campaign. Following is a letter which each child is taking home to his parents:

To Parents and Pupils of Three Rivers Schools:

The time has come again when each of us is privileged to contribute to the March of Dimes campaign.

Due to the great epidemic of polio last year the need is greater than ever before, and each of you is urged to give liberally to help Live Oak County raise its quota. Last year more than \$2,000 was spent on polio victims in this county, while there was \$951.25 raised in the county. One-half of the money raised will be retained in the county and any person in the county who may be stricken with polio will be taken care of and given the medical attention needed.

We hope to make a good contribution through the schools and we know that every child will want to contribute. Parents may also send their contribution to the school where they will be given proper credit. Prizes will be given to the three rooms contributing the most, so help your room win a prize by giving generously.

R. E. Stafford, Supt.

With 20 month prior service, 12 of those months spent overseas, Matias G. Garcia of Calliham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Garcia has re-entered the Army for three years. He stated that his desire to learn a good trade induced him to sign up.

viser.

Guests present were Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Brown, Lee Pope, F. W. Dudwig, Luther Casey.

New Chevrolet On Display Saturday

Bowman-Kneip Motor Company will have a new 1949 Chevrolet on display here this Saturday, January 20.

If possible, the new car will be shown in the firm's new showroom. Construction engineers have added a crew of 40 men this week in an attempt to have the new room ready by Saturday.

Applications for Peanut Allotment Due

Farms on which pueanuts will be grown for picking or threshing in 1949 for the first time or for the first time since 1945 will be considered new peanut farms, according to an announcement made this week by W. P. Williams, Live Oak County ACA Committee Chairman. The operation of such farms must file a written request in the local ACA Office for an acreage allotment prior to February 1, 1949. The acreage allotments for new farms will be determined by the State and County Committees, taking into consideration the past experience of the farm operator in growing peanuts, the tillable acreage suitable for the production of peanuts, equipment and labor suitable for the production of peanuts and other physical factors and the allotments established for old farms which are similar. Mr. Williams reminds all persons intending to grow peanuts for picking or threshing in 1949 who do not have regular old allotments to file an application before the deadline, February 1.

an American boy of Mexican descent. His parents are tenant farmers. In November of 1947, while Juan was a member of the junior class of the local High School and a member of the football team, during a game played with Poteet on the evening of November 14, he was seriously injured and, for a time, was totally paralyzed. Immediately following his injury, Juan was taken to the local hospital and given every attention. These included the services of a specialist from San Antonio who came here to the hospital regularly and assisted local doctors in treating Juan. He was furnished a special nurse for three months that he remained in the hospital. His medical and hospital bills of \$3,000.00 was paid out of local Public School funds.

At Christmas time, the local Rotary Club sponsored a donation which amounted to \$1,065.24 and was presented to Juan to be used in purchasing arthopedic devices or other aids to be used in his convalescence. J. A. Gurwitz who collected this fund, reported to the Rotary Club that "It was a pleasure. Everyone contacted donated cheerfully and generously; everyone was glad to express his good wishes for Juan's recovery."

Following this presentation, Juan authorized the following statement in the local newspaper, "Juan Diaz wishes to express here his thanks to his friends for their gifts and good wishes. He and his family appreciate the good will and helpfulness evidenced by the people of Three Rivers."

After Juan was taken from the hospital to his home, his friends continued to visit him and look out for him. Through the influence of his friends here, he was admitted to the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation at Gonzales where he received treatment. This Fall he was able to re-enter school, although he uses a wheel chair for locomotion. His classmates, both Anglo-American and Latin-American, help him by moving his chair about the building and grounds.

ALL CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL TOGETHER

Another condition which shows the fair-mindedness of Three Rivers citizens is evidenced by the fact that the Three Rivers Public Schools have pioneered in this section of the State in providing equal education facilities for children of all residents.

It has been a custom here for many years to admit children of Mexican parentage, not only to the same educational facilities enjoyed by all other children, but also to the same buildings, class rooms, and recreational groups. At present and for many years past, children of all grades except those who do not speak or understand English, attend school together. A separate school with English speaking teachers is provided for these and, as soon as they have overcome language difficulties, they also are admitted.



COPY

January 26, 1949

My dear Mr. Amsler:

Your letter of January 22nd arrived this morning. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of a letter I have written today to a citizen of Three Rivers, Texas, which might give you more information on the subject than the Associated Press has done. I thought you might also be interested in knowing that up to now Mr. Kennedy has made four separate statements.

First, he said that he refused the use of the chapel "because Latin-Americans had never held services in the chapel". He later said he didn't refuse, but discouraged the use of the chapel because he thought the "white people would object". He later said that he discouraged the use of the chapel because of friction within the family.

In Mr. Kennedy's statement which appeared on the front page of the THREE RIVERS NEWS he said "as far as I know the use of the funeral chapel had never before been requested by any person of Mexican descent". He went on to say "If I was wrong I apologize. I did not wish to change the practice for this particular funeral and so stated".

Perhaps this will give you a little better insight into at least a few of the facts I had at my disposal at the time I sent my wire.

Sincerely

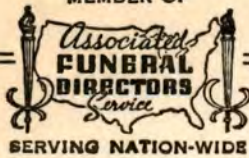
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Walter S. Amsler
S. Amsler Company, Inc.
McGregor, Texas
jc:gs Amy Longoria, Felix

S. AMSLER COMPANY, INC.

BUILDING MATERIALS, HARDWARE, HOUSEWARES

MEMBER OF



ASSOCIATE STORE AT CRAWFORD, TEXAS

PHONE 62



ESTABLISHED 1883

McGREGOR, TEXAS

January 22. 1949.

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

Dear Sir:-

You may or may not have seen the exact news item, clipping of which from Waco, Texas, paper, is inclosed herewith. You had plenty of the "news" as displayed perhaps in Washington paper- or somewhere else.

As a business man, and especially as a licensed Funeral Director myself, I regret very much that you saw fit to get into the public front lines with such news as this, without, probably, ever hearing the facts as related by Mr. T.W. Kennedy, the Funeral Director who seems to have been at the focus point in this case. I feel sure that Mr. Kennedy has here related the circumstances exactly as they were.

Every little town in the country, even in Texas, may not have a regular Funeral Chapel, though every one may have what is generally called a "lay-out" room, in cases referred to as a "chapel". To have siezed on a circumstance like this to bring the matter into a National phase by making arrangements yourself to have this body re-interred in the National Cemetery at Arlington, well, it all seems like a bit of publicity for somebody. I was just wondering for WHOM; for the Funeral Director, for the Widow or for a Senator from Texas. Sometimes when we are "burned down" we just go ahead and say some things that may not help the situation. We ourselves have arranged several re-burials of over-seas ex-service men, and we find the families are not looking for publicity at all; it is a very intimate family affair that merits and generally receives every earnest consideration. If this Funeral Director is really at fault his own professional connections will ultimately get this all straightened out properly.

Personally, I am glad the family saw fit to inter this body in Texas, where, in my opinion, it really belonged.

Courteously submitted,

Walter S. Amsler

Santone Reburial For Latin GI Hero Is Set by Family

CORPUS CHRISTI, Jan. 19—AP
Felix Longoria, Latin-American
citizen from Three Rivers, Texas,
who was killed in the Pacific war,
will be re-buried in San Antonio,
his family announced today.

A special funeral ceremony will
be held in Washington prior to
the San Antonio burial.

Scheduled re-burial services for
the soldier, originally planned at
Three Rivers, attracted wide at-
tention recently when the widow
reported that a Three Rivers fu-
neral home had discouraged the
use of its chapel. Sen. Lyndon
Johnson arranged in Washington
for the soldier to be re-buried in
Arlington Cemetery after this re-
port was issued.

T. W. Kennedy, manager of the
Rice Funeral Home at Three Riv-
ers, gave a different version of
what happened at Three Rivers.

"There was no question what-
ever of discrimination involved,"
said he. "I discouraged the use
of the chapel, frankly, because of
friction that I heard existed be-
tween members of the family.
Due to this friction, I thought it
would be better that the services
be held at the widow's home or
some other private home."

The Longoria family decided on
San Antonio as the re-burial place
after R. E. Smith of Houston,
chairman of the Texas Good
Neighbor Commission, urged that
the service be held somewhere in
Texas.

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On Sunday I came

COPY

January 21, 1949

Dear Dave:

I have tried, but my vocabulary has been found wanting when it comes to telling you how deeply I appreciated your letter about the Longoria incident.

Actually, what I did was small, but I was proud to do it. I expected to hear from the critics, but, frankly, I didn't expect to hear from friends like you. When your letter came I felt very humble, and I will be eternally grateful for your genuine thoughtfulness in taking time to add so much to my happiness.

I just followed the dictates of my heart in this, and I am glad I did.

Thank you, Dave, very, very much.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. David Botter
Washington Bureau
The Dallas Morning News
620 Albee Building
Washington, D. C.

HB/cm
Felix Longoria

WASHINGTON BUREAU

OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION IN TEXAS

The Dallas Morning News

TEXAS' LEADING NEWSPAPER



RADIO STATIONS WFAA AND WFAA-FM • TEXAS ALMANAC

WALTER C. HORNADAY, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT • 620 ALBEE BUILDING, TELEPHONE NATIONAL 5033 • WASHINGTON 5, D.C.

Jan. 12, 1949.

JAN 13 A.M.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
United States Senate,
Senate Office Building 231,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Lyndon:

This is a personal letter, not an official one.

But I am awfully proud of you tonight, and I am proud that Texas has a senator who will take the action you took in the Longoria matter.

And I just want to express my deep appreciation for the extremely warm hearted way in which you handled this particular case.

It is considerably bouying to know that a Texan will raise his voice in a matter of this type and place it on the record, for all the country to see that everyone who comes from our state is not trying to ride down the underprivileged or exploited racial groups which constitute a large part of our population.

It seems to me this is an extremely worthwhile start for a new Senator.

I am sincerely grateful to you.

Yours,

David Botter.

COPY

January 24, 1949

My dear Robert:

It was a real pleasure to receive your letter of the 19th and the clipping from The New Mexican which you attached.

Your editorial was overly generous. The part I played was a minor one, but it made me very proud to contribute what little I did.

Since we have so many wonderful mutual acquaintances, I hope that I can get to know you better in the very near future, and I hope you will do me the honor of dropping by the office or giving me a call when you are in Washington.

We like to brag that the northern boundary of Texas extends to the Canadian border, so I hope that you will consider yourself a constituent as well as a friend and never hesitate to call on me at any time I can be of service to you in any way.

When you see Charles or George Reynolds, please give them my fondest regards.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Robert McKinney
4505 Chrysler Building
New York, New York

jc/mhl
Amy-Longoria, Felix-Oburial

ROBERT MC KINNEY
4505 CHRYSLER BUILDING
NEW YORK CITY

January 19th, 1949

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

JAN 21 A.M.

Dear Senator Johnson:

As publisher of the Santa Fe New Mexican, I thought you would be interested in seeing a copy of our editorial last Friday on the Felix Longoria incident.

As the capital newspaper in a state whose population is half Spanish-speaking, we applaud your swift action in arranging for Pvt. Longoria's burial in Arlington.

You may remember me as the young Navy lieutenant whom you went to bat for after V.J. Day and got "demobilized", at the instance of our mutual good friend, George Brown.

Charles Marsh, whom you also know, is associated with me in ownership of the New Mexican, and George M. Reynolds is business manager. I believe they helped you win some of those 87 votes last summer, as I was with them part of the time in Austin during the campaign.

With best wishes for a happy and constructive six years in the Senate,

Sincerely,



Editorial

Bigotry Is Unpopular

"I deeply regret to learn that the prejudice of some individuals extends beyond this life."

So spoke Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas when he learned that the only mortuary at Three Rivers, Tex., had refused to handle the burial of Pvt. Felix Longoria, an American of Mexican descent, because "white people might object."

Private Longoria was killed in the battle of Luzon as a soldier of the American Army. At the request of his parents his body was returned to his home community for burial, but it couldn't be. Instead, he will be interred in a cemetery near Washington.

Senator Johnson expressed the dismay of many about the Three Rivers case and a similar one in Chicago. There the city has been unable to find burial plots for the bodies of a dozen American soldiers, these of Japanese descent, men who died in Italy as members of the heroic Nisei combat team.

While it is distressing to learn that such stupid bigotry exists among us, it is good to know that the public at large does not approve. The Texas and Chicago cases have shocked the nation. Everywhere people are speaking out against such intolerance and are happy that arrangements have been made to give the Texas GI an honorable funeral in Arlington National cemetery.

The furor raised by the shoddy treatment of the bodies of our dark skinned soldiers indicates that maybe we are coming of age at last with a promise of becoming a nation of freedom and equality that we talk about so much but have never achieved.

COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friend:

I sincerely appreciate your thoughtful message about my actions in the unfortunate and regrettable incident at Three Rivers, Texas. It was very kind of you to write.

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 unselfish service certainly deserves.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

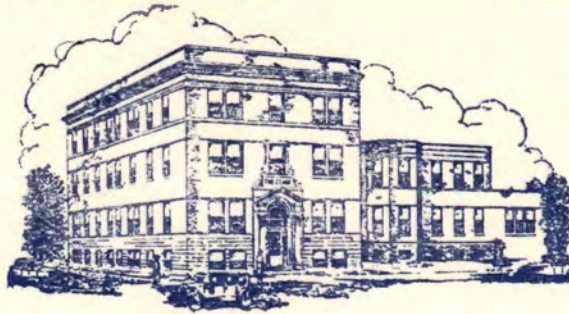
Dr. Ann M. Reed
Clinic Hospital
Michigan City, Indiana

FB/cm
Felix Longoria

THE CLINIC INCORPORATED, and CLINIC HOSPITAL

JAN 20 A.M.

H. L. BROOKS, M.D., F.A.C.S.
L. A. WILSON, M.D.
F. V. MARTIN, M.D.
A. M. REED, M.D.
G. W. COOPER, M.D.
R. V. WILLIAMS, M.D.



HOSPITAL
FULLY ACCREDITED BY
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
AND
AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

125 TO 133 E. 5TH STREET — OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
MICHIGAN CITY, IND. TELEPHONES: 2020-2021

Jan. 18, 1949

Senator Lyndon D. Johnson
Senator from Texas
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator;

I would like to commend you on your fine disposition of the case of the burial of Pvt. Longoria. It was American Christian action at it's best. The very things for which our country stands ~~for~~ and millions of us are saying "God bless Senator Johnson. We need more like him".

I cannot resist telling you so.

Very sincerely yours

Ann M. Reed

Ann M. Reed M.D.
Clinic Hospital
Michigan City,
Indiana.

COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friend:

It was very, very thoughtful of you to write such a kind and considerate letter on my actions in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers. I am deeply grateful for your interest.

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 unselfish service certainly deserves.

I was especially interested in the hand-bills you mailed. It is vitally important that all groups, regardless of how they feel about the poll tax, be prepared to express themselves when elections are held.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. R. N. Jones
938 N. Fort Worth Street
Midland, Texas

HB/cm
Felix Longoria/Legis.

938 N. Ft Worth St
Midland, Texas

Jan 16, 1949

JAN 21 A.M.

Hon. Lyndon Johnson

Dear Senator:

I wanted to make a special point of writing a thank-you letter for what you did in having ex-G. L. Longoria reburied in Arlington Cemetery. I would never think of writing if it hadn't been for an old man at the office remarking that it was only a trick of yours to get more Mexican votes.

This reminds me of a nasty political smear-story that one of the oil company boys told the other day. As the story goes, little Pedro down in Jim Wells county is mad at his father. His father has been dead ten years but every two years he comes back to town to vote and he never has come around to see Pedro.

As I see it, the few Mexicans who are now paying poll taxes and voting is a pretty puny political force compared to what they ought to be if there were no poll tax or other restriction. I wish you would look into Governor Jester's idea for a "citizen's tax" and if it smells like a poll tax (or a pole-cat) please see that the federal anti-poll tax bill neatly seals up that loophole.

You see, my wife is Mexican and our little boy would have to straddle any segregation line that are drawn through our community. So I am personally interested in seeing the Mexican people of Texas gain respect for themselves.

Last year I wrote and had printed two throw-aways in Spanish, urging people to pay their poll tax and vote. This year I am using the one in English inclosed. My job would be

easier, of course, if there were no poll tax to pay. It is hard to persuade a poor family of cotton pickers, out of a job, in January, with kerosene and food to buy, that their three dollars and fifty cents for a couple of votes might make any difference in an election.

There is one thing I want especially for you to consider. On these new housing bills, see if you can't get some low-rent federal housing for Midland and Odessa - two of the growingest oil towns in Texas. Rent is terrible here. And in doing this, I hope those in charge do not make the same sad mistake as last time - setting up separate housing projects for Latin-Americans and excluding them from the "white" projects. You can see these separate projects in El Paso, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, etc. This causes all kinds of friction and hard feelings. For instance, the American Chalmers Courts in Austin is in the midst of a neighborhood where Anglo and Latin families have been neighbors for years. Yet here are two solid blocks of "lily-white" housing. The playgrounds are even restricted to American children. The City of Austin was forced to set up a Latin American Community Center across the street - affording duplicate play facilities for those excluded from Chalmers. This is the stuff gang fights and even race riots are made of.

These "separate-but-equal" housing projects in Austin (Santa Rita is the other - you were influential in getting these for Austin - and they were sorely needed. But administered by the city, their racial policy is bad.) have given added impetus to segregation in the schools, where this was disappearing. The trend must be reversed if we are to ^{help} Americanize these people. Federal housing for Texas should have a clause stating: "no segregation of Mexican-Americans." Just remember little Bobby Jones - how can you segregate him?

RN Jones -

LETTERS

TO THE EDITORS

The Saturday
Evening Post

YOUR NEIGHBORS

Let me thank and congratulate you on the new series beginning with THE GONZALEZES [YOUR NEIGHBORS, by George Sessions Perry, Oct. 2-Nov. 20]. . . . Perhaps if more magazines will follow your lead in presenting the homey details that make people seem real—and that emphasize likes rather than differences—we will have no more need for "debates and vetoes."

MRS. ELIZABETH M. FURST
Indianapolis, Ind.

. . . As a native Texan who speaks Spanish and has a Mexican wife [see cut], I have something to say to you



The Joneses

and perhaps to your readers about the article on the Gonzalezes. I will try to speak not so much for myself or my wife as for hundreds of other people who cannot write English as well as we can.

Your article was largely accurate, yet it managed to be misleading in that its avowed purpose was to minimize the discrimination and segregation and prejudice against the Mexican-American people in Texas. These things cannot be dismissed as "residual islands of discrimination" or covered up by telling a single success story. . . .

In West Texas . . . most restaurants do not welcome Mexicans. . . . My son was refused a haircut in a small West Texas town. His name is Jones and he was a year-old baby, but his Mexican mother took him to the barber shop. . . . Service stations commonly keep their rest rooms locked up out here and refuse the key to Mexicans. This has happened to my wife. . . .

Federal housing projects exclude Mexicans or segregate them in their own projects. In town after town throughout Texas, and West Texas in particular, city and county authorities discriminate flagrantly against the Mexican shack town known as the *barrio*. Typically, the *barrio* has no paved streets, no sidewalks, no street lamps, no sewage, no fire plugs, no street signs, not a single telephone, and sometimes no gas, water or lights. . . .

Mexican nurses, telephone operators, stenographers, waitresses and salesgirls are almost unheard of outside of San Antonio, Laredo and El Paso. . . . A Mexican can work as a plumber's helper for twenty years, often actually training the young apprentice who is bossing him. The Mexican cannot become a plumber. . . . Carpenters, painters, bricklayers, ditto. . . .

The standard of living of the Texas Mexican is several degrees below that of the Texas Negro. Oftener than not, when things slack off, he finds that he,

not the Negro, is "last hired, first fired." . . .

ROBERT N. JONES

Midland, Tex.

BARGAIN!

SALE!

FOR ONLY

1.75

*You Can Cast Your
Ballot In 1949 for:*

MAYOR

3 CITY COUNCILMEN

3 School Board Trustees

**You MAY Get To Vote For or Against the Poll Tax
As A Prerequisite For Voting In Texas!**

The League of Women Voters of Midland

AND

The Midland Junior Chamber of Commerce

URGE YOU TO

PAY YOUR POLL TAX BY JAN. 31

HOWARD—MIDLAND

TRANSMITTED TO BUREAU



Regalos de Navidad

¿Qué mejor regalo para Ud. y los suyos que el derecho de votar? ¿No desearía Ud. participar en las tremendas elecciones presidenciales de 1948? - - - en las cuales se forma el futuro no sólo de nuestra patria sino del mundo entero?

¿Habrá PAZ o habrá guerra?

¿Abundancia o hambre?

Habrá discriminación o leyes justas con respecto a minorías raciales?

¡ES UD. QUIEN MANDA CON SU VOTO!

Si es Ud. ciudadano, pague cuanto antes \$1.75 por el Poll Tax en la Casa de Corte cualquier día de trabajo antes del Primero de Febrero para poder votar.

1948
AÑO DE ELECCIONES

¿Quién será el nuevo presidente?

¿Quién será el nuevo senador?

¿Quién será el juez de su condado?

En muchos condados de Texas es conocido que la ley tiene poco respecto a nuestra raza. Es porque el voto mexicano no se hace sentir entre los oficiales de esos condados.

Es muy posible que se hará una ley acabando con la segregación del latino en las escuelas, y hasta en los hoteles, teatros y restaurantes; todo depende del respaldo entusiasta del pueblo mexicano.

**HAY QUE INFORMARNOS DE QUE
OPINAN LOS VARIOS CANDIDATOS,
y luego:**

¡Hay Que Votar!



**Deje de bailar... deje de tomar
atienda esto primero, ¡es importante!**



**Si es Ud. ciudadano, pague cuanto antes
\$1.75 por el Poll Tax en la Casa de Corte
cualquier día de trabajo antes del Primero
de Febrero para poder votar.**

COPY

January 21, 1949

My dear Friend:

I deeply appreciate the expression from you and the members of the University Religious Workers Association. Your thoughtfulness makes me very humble.

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 certainly deserves.

If ever I can be of assistance to you or to the Religious Workers at the University, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Elconan H. Saulson, President
University Religious Workers Association
P. O. Box 1811, University Station
Austin, Texas

HB/cm
Felix Longoria

JAN 20 A.M.



B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO CULTURAL
RELIGIOUS AND COUNSELING SERVICE AMONG JEWISH
STUDENTS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

ELCONAN H. SAULSON
DIRECTOR

228 GOVARD LUTHER STREET
AUSTIN 21, TEXAS
TELEPHONE 6000

P. O. Box 1811, University Station
Austin, Texas
January 17, 1949

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

Honorable Sir:

May I, on behalf of the University Religious
Workers Association of the University of
Texas, congratulate you most heartily upon
your prompt and humane action in the matter
of the burial of the late war hero, Felix
Longoria?

Sincerely yours

ELCONAN H. SAULSON, President
University Religious Workers Association

EHS:bg

COPY

January 24, 1949

Dear Ward:

I have just received the copies of your editorial, "Blow for Friendship," and I am very proud and grateful for what you had to say.

At the time, I was not aware that I was striking a "ringing blow" for so much. I just followed the dictates of my heart -- which, after all, is the best thing to do all of the time.

Thank you so much, Ward, for mentioning my part in this. I hope that my future actions and decisions here will be worthy of your personal, as well as editorial, confidence.

With my warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Ward Mayborn
Sherman Democrat
Sherman, Texas

bb -- army longoria reburial

Blow For Friendship

A ringing blow for friendly Latin-American relations, downright Democracy, and plain ordinary humanity was struck by Texas' Junior Senator Lyndon Johnson when he took up the cudgels for an appropriate burial for the Three Rivers Texas-Mexican war hero.

The mortician who is alleged to have refused to handle the remains because of Mexican ancestry, says now he had no intention of 'discriminating' but merely 'discouraged' the use of the chapel.

At any rate, Felix Longoria, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, that haven where America pays its highest respect for its outstanding battle heroes.

And it is because of Lyndon Johnson, a man of goodwill for his neighbor across the Rio Grande, who despite possible political reverberations took a forthright stand.

It can be said that Texas' governor, Beauford Jester, also joined with Johnson in deploring such discrimination, if such it was.

Latin-American Texans galore fought and died for Texas in the late world war. Felix Longoria was one of the first of his ancestral background to pay the supreme penalty.

Surely the mortician who was reluctant to use his chapel for the service does not reflect the sentiments of a majority of his fellow-Texans.

Such an attitude carries racial prejudice to an extreme unconscionable on the part of free Texans

SHERMAN (TEX.) DEMOCRAT 1-16-49

COPY

January 24, 1949

My dear Friend:

I am very grateful for your letter of the nineteenth and especially for your kind words about my action in the regrettable incident at Three Rivers.

My part in this was small, but I was proud to do what I could to provide for Felix Longoria, an American hero, the decent, proper, Christian burial his great and unselfish service deserves.

With my warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John H. Shoaf
614 Bower Street
Elkhart, Indiana

hb -- longoria reburial

614 Bower Street
Elkhart, Indiana
January 19, 1949

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

JAN 22 A.M.

Dear Senator Johnson:

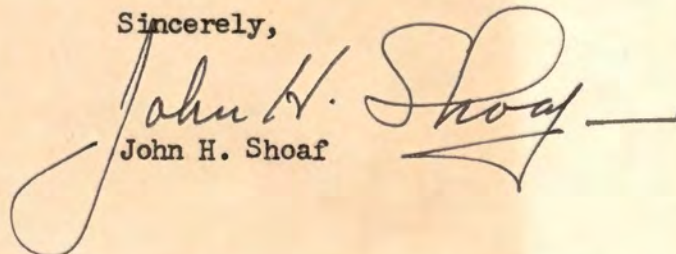
You are to be commended for your efforts in behalf of Mrs.
Felix Longoria!!

For seven generations, my family has lived in Texas—I am a
native son—and some times proud of the fact—only when I
read about such hypocrites as the citizens of Three Rivers
do I hide my Texas ancestry. It is unbelievable that such
prejudices can still be in existence.

The attached clipping from THE DETROIT FREE PRESS is typical
of the editorials published in this section of the country—
thought you would be interested in seeing it.

Kind regards

Sincerely,


John H. Shoaf

JHS:jw

That great Republic!

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.

6

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.

D'ya Think We Want the Flag of Texas Sullied?



COPY

January 24, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for taking time to write me such a thoughtful and heartening letter. I enjoyed reading every line of it.

No words of mine could ever adequately express my appreciation for your kind words or for your past support. My part in this regrettable incident at Three Rivers was small, but I was proud to do what I could to provide for Felix Longoria the decent, Christian, American burial his unselfish service deserves.

If my actions have contributed in anyway toward a better understanding among those who live as neighbors, then I am very happy and thankful.

Again, thank you for writing, and if I can serve you in anyway at anytime, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. A. S. Vente
P. O. Box 877
San Juan, Texas

bb -- longoria reburial

San Juan, Texas.

Jan. 16th, 1949

Honorable Lyndon Johnson,
U. S. Senator,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I do not find enough words to express our appreciation for the interest you shown in the case of Three Rivers regarding the refusal to bury the body of a Latin American soldier.

I am sure that this proof of sincerity and Americanism shown by you as our representatives, will always be appreciated by all people of Latin descent and by all good Americans.

Now the proprietor of the funeral home is giving the usual excuses. His excuses reminds me of Mr. Coke Stevenson when he visit Mexico. Regarding the problem of discrimination in Texas against the people of Mexican descent, his answer was that no discrimination existed in Texas. When he was asked about the segregation of our children in the public schools, his answer was that it was the people of Latin descent who wanted separate schools. His excuses were poor and ridiculous. Mexico is very well informed for even Senators and Mexican Consuls have been put out of public places in Texas. The Spanish newspapers carries almost daily the abuses done to the people of Latin descent in Texas.

The investigations of Consul Duplan of Austin in 1943 gave a good account of the discrimination against Latin Americans in Texas. He cited that even churches and Cemeteries have refused to admit for burial the bodies of the Latin American people. The book entitled, "Latin Americans in Texas" by Mrs Pauline H. Kibbe and one published recently, entitled, "Are We Good Neighbors?" by Judge Alonso S. Perales

of San Antonio, Texas, gives documentary evidence of what we have to go through through the problem of discrimination in Texas.

We hope that you'll continue in the future by our side doing what is right for a people that for long years have been humiliated and kept down through the undemocratic practices of discrimination.

/ We have other serious problems in the Rio Grande Valley. The thousands of illegal Mexican citizens working for starvation wages forces our people to leave for the North in search of work. This problem hurts us economically and politically. Something ought to be done to protect our citizens. Why not help a neighboring Country to solve its economic problems in order that its citizens stay inside its own Country? For how can we solve our economic problems?

Those who stay in the Valley work a day or two which is not enough to live decently and to give their children a school education. Many children are forced to work in the fields. I am describing this other problem in order that you will be better informed of what a large percentage of our people have to go through. We are all anxious to give our children an education and that they'll enjoy as Americans the same opportunities as the rest.

In my opinion, in order to protect our Peace, Unity and Democracy in this Hemisphere, we must end with our No. 1 problem, the problem of race discrimination against other Americans. To make our own borders and the rest of the Americas more united and more stronger, we must let everybody earn a living wage.

During the recent campaign, I worked very hard for you and Mr. Philip Kazen.

I am sending you as a humble gift, the book of our beloved Latin American leader, Judge Alonso S. Perales of San Antonio, and which is based on facts of the problem of discrimination against us. It might help you to be better informed regarding our problems.

Again thanking you from the bottom of heart for your sincerity and

Americanism shown ^{to} our people, and with very best wishes for your success
as our representative, I remain,

Sincerely,

Mrs A. S. Vente

Mrs A. S. Vente

Pres. Citizens' Political
Club.

P. O. Box 877, San Juan, Texas.

COPY

February 21, 1949.

Dear Dan:

Many thanks for your note about the Longoria matter and for the clippings.

You are the most dependable friend a man could have. Be sure to keep sending me the clippings. You are my No. 1 man in San Antonio so let me know what I ought to do.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Honorable Dan Quill,
Postmaster,
San Antonio, Texas.

m
war - longoria, felix

Dear Lyndon -

FEB 21 P.M.

Believe I
Will have
the Felix
Longoria
matter settled

to your complete
satisfaction
within a week

203/19
49 Your son
9

San Antonio 51x



Hon Lyndon B Johnson use
 Senate Office Bldg
 Washington
 D.C.

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, possibly "Wm B. ..."]

COPY

March 1, 1949.

My dear Friend:

Many thanks for your letter about Felix Longoria.

In my opinion we cannot do too much for a man who has given his life for our country, regardless of nationality, religion or any other prejudice that the minds of little people many entertain.

I appreciate your taking the time to write me about this matter, which I hope will never occur again in our State.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mr. Len Q. Bosley,
559 Corey Avenue,
Braddock, Penn.

in
way
longoria, felix

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
Sir,

I have been reading the Longoria case. And I'm glad that you took part in the case. I would like to express my feelings as to that. That it is about time someone opens the light on racial prejudice.

We were born in Texas, and raised in Penna. We served in the forces of the United States and all of us would gladly give our lives. While I was stationed there in Texas they refused to serve me in a restaurant because I was Mexican. If we were good enough to serve our country, why do they treat us like that.

I know there are good and bad in every race, but when it comes to burying the dead they shouldn't hold against you what nationality you are. He gave his life to fight for our country.

And our country is made up of different nationalities. All of us at one time fought for our liberty and we are not sorry that we live here.

Thanking you , I remain

Len. Q. Bosley
559 Gorey Ave.
Braddock, Penna.

COPY

March 10, 1949

My dear Friend;

Thank you so much for taking the time to write me your nice letter of March 9. I appreciate all of your comments very deeply.

While my part in the Felix Longoria incident was small, I was glad to share in seeing that this boy get the decent, Christian burial his services deserved.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Miss Dorothy Johnson

426 North Raymond Avenue

Pasadena 3, California

War — ~~on~~ ~~FELIX LONGORIA — Johnson, Dorothy~~

MAR 10 A.M.

426 No. Raymond Avenue
Pasadena 3, California
March 9, 1949

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

Dear Senator Johnson:

I just want to tell you how inspired I was by your action in the case of Felix Longoria, as beautifully and vividly reported in "The Progressive" for March. Lots of times I don't like to put "honorable" at the first of letters I write to Congressmen! But in this case, I was very happy to do so. It is a joy to know that there are "honorable" people -- even in Texas! And of course the fact that you are another Johnson gives me a little clannish pride. I, along with Cary McWilliams, find a lot of reason for encouragement in the present-day scene in regard to the development of better racial understanding in the United States. But we have a long way to go, don't we!

My very best wishes to you. Being an American Congressman is an awfully (I use the word literally) important job these days!

Very sincerely yours,


Dorothy Johnson

(P.S. - I write this note from the uncomfortable position of a "majority" person: white, protestant, seven generations of middle-class American ancestors from all branches of my family tree. But my paternal grandparents came out of Kentucky because they didn't want their children to grow up in slave territory and my father is not afraid to face "the truth that hurts," though he lives in Missouri. I could not be worthy of this heritage if I weren't concerned for "liberty and Justice for all." - dj)

COPY

March 11, 1949

Dear Dan:

Thank you for the clippings regarding
the Longoria investigation.

Your promptness and cooperation
are always gratifying.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable Dan Quill
Postmaster
San Antonio, Texas

ml
Army—Longoria, Felix Returial

COPY

March 15, 1949

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your very nice letter of the 10th regarding the burial of Felix Longoria in Arlington National Cemetery.

My part in the incident was small, but I was proud to share in securing for this American soldier the decent, Christian burial to which he was entitled.

It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Lynlon B. Johnson

Mr. Emory L. Holden
9 Fourth Avenue
Auburn, New York

ml
Army--Longoria, Felix

write

9 Fourth Ave.
Auburn, N.Y.
March 10, 1949.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

MAR 12 P.M.

Dear Sir:

Permit me to congratulate you
upon your successful efforts to
secure full military honors and
burial in Arlington National Cemetery
the body of war hero Felix Long-
oria.

You have done much to erase
a blot that would have re-
mained upon your fine state.

Sincerely

Emory L. Holden

7

MAR 24 A.M.

Earlimart, Calif.
March 14, 1949

Congressional Delegation
of Texas.

Dear Senator.

In regards to
a situation in the
pathfinder magazine
concerning the Hero
Felix Longoria. The whites
weren't near so per-
ticular when he gave
his life what nation-
ality he was then
why now, > you all
too soon forget

-Two-

what he and many
more boys give! what
if the Phillippino people
said you can't hurry
americans on our Islands
How would you State
OF TEXAS, like that?
Well I'm a white
and think you
people are very
weak in the line
of appreciation for
the gold star mother
and the grief stricken
wives & fatherless
children to do such
a thing like that
to these and you

- Three -

all call yourselves
part of a free nation
I must say, this
one thing doesn't look
like it to me.

He was an American
too remember?

We in California
treat all Americans
alike we are proud
to help them and
their families in
any way we can. We
help each other. I bet
you wouldn't let
this go in the
magazine from
your state for

- I see -

other readers to
agree with me
on. I would in
some way help Mrs
Felix Longoria and
run another tract
in the magazine
to show that you
are sorry your State
gave an disrespectful
appension to the
rest of ^{the} United States
readers. as I have
talked to lots of
people who saw + read
this they feel as I do.

A California Reader,

— U.S. Great Hall Texas —

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Acme

Taps after Trouble. Felix Longoria died a hero in 1945, victim of Jap small arms fire on Luzon. He was 26. After the war, his widow wanted his body brought back to Three Rivers, Tex., for reburial.

To inter the young Mexican-American with proper ceremony, she asked local undertaker T. W. Kennedy for use of his mortuary chapel. To her complete amazement, he refused. Tearful, she called Dr. Hector Garcia in Corpus Christi, Tex., and explained that Kennedy had said "the Whites might object." Furious, Garcia wired

all members of Texas' Congressional delegation.

Last week, Felix's widow, his 7-year-old daughter and his parents could feel at least that justice had been done. At the insistence of Texas' Sen. Lyndon Johnson, Longoria's body was brought to Arlington, Va., and reburied (above) with full military honors. The Three Rivers undertaker was absent, but his place was taken by a man fitter to show America's gratitude for a hero's sacrifice—Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn, representing the President of the United States.

erub-wom-
camp



Texas' Congressional Delegation
Senator Lyndon Johnson
% Three Rivers, Texas

N. TEX.
R 2A
MA
1949
OL STA.



J. F. GRAY
THREE RIVERS, TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUSTIN, TEXAS

AUSTIN, TEXAS
MAR 21
12 M
1949
CAPITOL STA.



Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Washington, D. C.

COPY

April 1, 1949.

My dear Mrs. Curtis:

I am deeply grateful for your letter of March 28th and the sentiments you expressed on behalf of the Washington Chapter of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice.

In my opinion there was not too much that we could do for this Mexican boy who gave his life for his country that each of us might have a better world in which to live. His family returned to Texas after the services with lighter hearts and a renewed faith in the greatness and graciousness of the Nation in which we live.

It was kind of your organization to write me.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mrs. W. F. Curtis,
Corresponding Secretary, Washington Chapter,
Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice,
Sixteenth and Harvard Streets, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

war - longoria, felis

Washington Chapter
Unitarian Fellowship For Social Justice
Sixteenth and Harvard Streets N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

March 28, 1949.

APR 1 A.M.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
Senate Office Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

At a regular meeting of the Washington Chapter of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice it was voted that a letter be sent you to commend you on your action which resulted in the burial of veteran Felix Longoria in Arlington Cemetery. For such a loyal servant of his country burial in this honored spot is altogether fitting and proper. Your action must have brought solace and increased faith in our Democracy to his family and friends.

Sincerely,

Thelma B. Curtis
(Mrs. W. F. Curtis)

Corr. Secy.,
WASHINGTON CHAPTER
UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

COPY

February 21, 1949.

Dear Mr. Miller:

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me the clipping from the New York News and in writing me as you did about the burial of Felix Longoria in Arlington National Cemetery.

It was regrettable that this Mexican family was subjected to humiliation and embarrassment, and I hope that such an event will never occur again.

Thank you again for writing me as you did.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

Hon. Paul J. Miller
135 Broadway,
New York 6, N. Y.

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was
longoria, felix

PAUL J. MILLER
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
135 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 6, N. Y.
BARCLAY 7-8898

FEB 20 A.M.

February 18, 1949

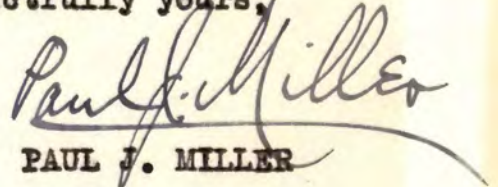
The Hon. Lydon Johnson
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

I enclose a photo clipping from the New York News which gave me a feeling of elation that you were instrumental in arranging a hero's burial in our National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. I am a war veteran of the 1st World War and when I read a few weeks ago that the Texas undertaker refused to handle the funeral by reason of Mexican ancestry I had nothing but contempt for him.

I heartily commend you.

Respectfully yours,


PAUL J. MILLER

PJM:D



A Hero's Grave (By Acme) in Arlington National Cemetery receives the body of Felix Longoria, 26, of Mexican ancestry, who died with Yanks in Philippines. His daughter, Adeleta, 8, and wife, Sara, (front row) mourn. Texas undertaker refused to handle funeral, so Senator Lyndon Johnson arranged hero's burial in Arlington, Va.



ENTERPRISE

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Livingston, Texas

March 17, 1949

Buzz

Hon. Senator Lyndon Johnson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Attached you will find some news clippings on the Longoria Probe that I feel will be of interest to you. Trusting that you are completely satisfied with the manner in which this has been handled.

May I express my sincere appreciation to you for the contact that you recently made for me.

Any time that I can either personally or as a newspaper publisher be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Pryor R. Stripling

Mrs. Pryor R. Stripling
nee Mrs. E. H. Whitehead
Publisher

PRS:net
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