

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF LIVE OAK

On this 20th day of February, 1949, I, Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., voluntarily make the following statement in order to clarify any confusion that may exist with respect to the part that I played in connection with the reburial of the body of my son, Felix Longoria:

My name is Guadalupe Longoria. I was born in San Diego, Texas. I have lived in Three Rivers, Texas, for approximately 25 years.

Guadalupe Longoria
In the first place I wish to state that, contrary to reports published in some newspapers, my son's widow, Beatrice Longoria, and I have never had any personal differences. She, members of her family, and all members of my family including myself have always been on the best of terms. Any difficulties or clashes with any other person have been due to personal matters between such person and me or my sons, and not because of any friendship ~~xxx~~ between such person and my son's widow or between such person and members of her family. To this day, my son's widow visits my home frequently and we still consider her, as we always will, as our own daughter.

During the early part of January, 1949, my son's widow, Beatrice Longoria, notified us that she had received a notice from the War Department that the remains of my son Felix would soon arrive in San Francisco. This was the second notice that she had received; she had also told us about the first notice some time before.

Zenaidura macroura

Enfermado

Lupe

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

American Citizens, (LULAC), and another for Frank Chapa, president of the G.I. Forum in Beeville. We then returned to Three Rivers.

On the following day, my son Guadalupe informed me that Dr. Garcia had telephoned him and asked him to disregard the letters; that he (Dr. Garcia) ~~would~~ would try to obtain the necessary funds to send at least three members of the family to Washington. I was thoroughly in accord that Dr. Garcia should do as he had told my son, since I wanted as many members of the family as possible to go to Washington for the funeral--or ~~we~~ go wherever the funeral might be held--and furthermore I had previously given him full authority to make whatever arrangements he saw fit, provided they met with the approval of the widow, who after all, had the final say in all these matters, and properly so.

On or about January 13, the following persons came to my home: J.K. Montgomery, mayor of Three Rivers, S.F. Ramsey, president of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, Bryan Boyd, city secretary, First Mr. Boyd came to my home alone, in the morning. He and another man whose name is Radford, I think. ~~They~~ took me to the First State Bank of Three Rivers, where I was asked many questions (the above four men) in English, most of which I did not understand. I did tell them that I wish it were possible to bury my boy at home, but I also told them that I had consented to other arrangements being made and that, furthermore, the widow had the final say in the matter. Nothing ~~by~~ was said by anyone with reference to the ~~collection~~ collection of funds for traveling expenses for any member of the family. This subject was not discussed.

I believe it was that night (January 13) when the same gentlemen whom I had seen at the bank all came to my home with a statement that they wanted me to sign. I told them I could not sign anything because I had given complete authority to Dr. Hector Garcia and Beatrice, my son's widow. -3-

My daughter Carolina, and my sons Alberto and Guadalupe were present when these four gentlemen asked me to sign the statement. Carolina kept a copy of the statement, which is attached to this statement. I repeat**I did not sign this statement; the facts appearing in it are not true; and I did not authorize any one to publish it or anything similar to it. This statement brought to my home was translated to me by my children.

Longoria
Guadalupe
I want it clearly understood that I am very grateful to Dr. Garcia and the American G.I. Forum for their efforts in our behalf. I am also grateful to other organizations and groups which have taken an interest in this case, and particularly to Senator Johnson, whose only interest, as I can see, was to find a peaceful resting place for a soldier who gave his life for his country. The Good Neighbor Commission has also been active in investigating this case, and I appreciate the efforts of its Executive Secretary Mr. Tom Sutherland and its Chairman, Mr. Bob Smith.

If any embarrassment has been caused by this case to anyone, I am sorry, but after all I did not create a feeling of prejudice which seems to exist in many places in Texas against people of my national origin. Other people are responsible for that. I think that we would only be fooling ourselves to try to leave the impression that people of Mexican descent are treated the same as anyone else throughout the State of Texas.

I have made this statement in the presence of several persons, including members of my family. It has been translated to me by my daughter Carolina. I have not been offered anything by anyone for making it; I am doing it of my own free will. I had hoped that this matter would be ended, but if someone wishes to make an investigation, I would like for this investigation to bring out the true facts.

I have signed the preceding four pages on the margin after they were translated to me, this 20th day of February, A.D. 1949.

Guadalupe Longoria
Guadalupe Longoria, Sr.

Witnesses:

Carolina Longoria
Carolina Longoria.

Guadalupe Longoria, Jr.
Guadalupe Longoria, Jr.

Alberto Longoria
Alberto Longoria

Beatrice Longoria
Beatrice Longoria

Sarah Moreno
Sarah Moreno

Heriberto Hernandez
Heriberto Hernandez

The following is a statement made to the Board of Directors of the
Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce by Lupe Longoria of Three Rivers,
Father of Felix Longoria.

C
O
P
Y
"Felix' wife would not speak to me because I objected to the association she
~~was~~ was having with another man and with whom I had had trouble before
they were told to leave town and she did not want us to know when the body
would arrive. He is my boy and I want his body brought back to his home in
Three Rivers. My family and I hope that our Three Rivers friends will help
us in getting his body brought here for burial. I am 66 years old, have
lived in Three Rivers 25 years and I feel that everyone here is my friend.
I expect to live here the rest of my life and would like for my boy to
be as near us as possible. I do not know this Garcia from Corpus Christi
and do not want any trouble from him."

Sworn to and subscribed to before me the undersigned authority this
____ day of January, 1949.

Notary Public in and for
Live Oak County, Texas.

COPY

February 18, 1949

My father was driven from home down to the bank by Mr. Ramsay and several other men, where they asked him to sign a letter which said he wanted Felix buried in Three Rivers. He didn't sign the letter, so they brought the letters to the house when they took Daddy home.

I looked at the letters and told them we would have to check. They told us that if Daddy didn't sign the letters they would not be printed. Then I asked them to leave.

Daddy didn't sign the letters then or anytime, because we tore them up, after we had studied them. A few days later, though, the letter was printed in the Three Rivers papers with my father's name on it.

Also, statements were printed saying that my father opposed the collection of money to pay for the family's trip up here. That is not so. He went to Dr. Garcia and offered to help get the money. If my father had opposed the trip, we wouldn't have taken the money and none of us would have come here.

The men in Three Rivers -- Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Montgomery, and several others -- kept trying to get him (my father) to say things and do things all during the time the stories were in the papers. Daddy got sick and on Dr. Garcia's instructions I made the men go away whenever they came to the house. It all got so bad finally, though, that Alberto had to take Daddy away to Laredo to get some rest.

Signed by:

March the 7th A.D. 1949

My father was driven from home down to the bank by Mr. Ramsay and several other men, where they asked him to sign a letter which said he wanted Felix buried in Three Rivers. He didn't sign the letter, so they brought the letters to the house when they took Daddy home.

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Signed by:

Carolina Longoria

THE STATE OF TEXAS |
COUNTY OF NUECES |

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Carolina Longoria
this the 7th day of March A.D. 1949.

(J. Guadalupe Trevino) *J. Guadalupe Trevino*
Notary Public in and for Nueces Co., Texas

February 18, 1949

Mr. Kennedy was quoted as saying that he had denied the use of his chapel because of difficulties between my sister, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, and the Longoria family.

There had been some differences quite some time ago, but that was all a family matter and was past and forgotten.

Mr. Kennedy had not been in Three Rivers during that time and his statements were just based on what people there told him.

As far as my sister and the family were concerned, there were no differences over the reburial. If there had been, she would not have wanted Felix buried in Three Rivers where his family and friends all live.

Signed by:

Sara Moreno

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF NUECES§

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, on this day personally appeared Juventino Ponce, who after being by me duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says as follows:

My name is Juventino Ponce, and my address is Gen. Del., Three Rivers, Texas. I am 29 years of age, and I am an American citizen by birth. I was born June 4, 1919, in McCoy, Atascosa County, Texas. I have lived in Three Rivers, Live Oak County, Texas for the last 15 years. I am a veteran of World War II.

On Friday, March 11, 1949, I went to a barber shop located next door to the Rotary Club on Dibrell Avenue, in Three Rivers, Texas. I walked in, and a man wearing a white jacket such as is commonly worn by barbers asked me, "What can I do for you?" I answered, "I need a haircut!" He said, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve Latin-Americans!" I said nothing more but merely walked out.

This barber shop opened for business on or about March 7th 1949. It is located, I repeat, next door to the Rotary Club where the Legislature Committee was holding a hearing on the Longoria Case that same day that I was refused service at said barber shop.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Juventino Ponce on this the 12th day of March, A. D. 1949, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Juventino Ponce

Hector de Pena

HECTOR DE PENAS
Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas

My commission expires June 1, 1949.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Corpus Christi, Texas

Feb. 18, 1949

The following is a full and correct statement as to my personal knowledge of the Longoria incident.

As a reporter for the Caller-Times, I have covered the activities of the American GI Forum. On the night of Jan. 10, Dr. Hector Garcia called me at my home. He said Rice Funeral Home of Three Rivers had refused chapel services for Felix Longoria, a soldier killed in action, and said the Forum would hold a protest meeting the following night.

I then called Mr. Kennedy, operator of the funeral home, to verify the story. Specifically warning him that he spoke for publication, I asked him if the funeral home had refused chapel services for Longoria. He said that was true.

I then asked if that refusal was based on Longoria's race. "We never made a practice of letting Mexicans use the chapel," Kennedy said, "and we don't want to start now." He added that "most of them" (Latins) did not want chapel services.

I then asked if he had ever held a Latin service in the chapel, and he said that he had not.

John Anderson, a Caller-Times reporter who shares my duplex, was present during most of these phone conversations, and heard my end of the talk. I warned Kennedy at the time that he "had hold of a hot potato", but he seemed to believe that the whole thing amounted to very little.

The next day I called Mr. Kennedy again, and he told me that he would "discourage" the chapel service for Longoria, but would not refuse if the family insisted. He did not then deny his statements of the previous night. Later he did retract his original statements, and his denials were duly noted in our paper.

I am making this statement, at the request of Garcia, because an investigation has been ordered. I was not acquainted with any of the Longorias previous to the incident, and have no personal interest except in my own news stories, which were correct accounts of the incident as it developed.

George Groh

Sworn to and subscribed before me by George Groh on this the 18th day of February, A. D. 1949, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

HECTOR DE PENA

Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas:

George Groh
Hector de Pena

STATEMENT

On January 7, 1949 I went to Three Rivers, Texas, my former home-town to make arrangements for my husband's (late Felix Longoria) funeral. I went to the Rice Funeral Home, only funeral home in Three Rivers, Texas owned by Mr. T.W. Kennedy to have the funeral arrangements made. He agreed to handle the arrangements, but when I told him I wanted his body kept at the Chapel, he said, "Well, Mrs. Longoria, I have lots of Latin friends but I can't let his body rest at this Chapel, because the whites won't like it". After he told me that, and not expecting it, I agreed to have the body taken to my house there at Three Rivers until reburial.

I returned to Corpus Christi to consult with my family about the incident. One of my sisters immediately got in contact with the "American GI Forum", a Veterans Organization of which Dr. Hector P. Garcia is president and I authorized Dr. Garcia to try to get the use of the Chapel for my husband's services. I told Dr. Garcia that unless he could get the Chapel, we would bury him instead at Corpus Christi. Dr. Garcia then called Mr. Kennedy and was told by Mr. Kennedy that "they had never let the Latin Americans use the Chapel and were not starting now, even if he was a soldier killed in action". Dr. Garcia also called the Caller-Times, local newspaper and a Caller-Times reporter, Mr. George Groph, who then called Mr. Kennedy and was told the same thing.

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by Beatrice Longoria on this the 9th
day of February, A. D. 1949, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.



Hector de Pena

HECTOR DE PENA
Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas
My commission expires June 1, 1949.

Feb 9 1949.

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF NUECES
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

My name is Hector P. Garcia M.D. I am a Physician Surgeon by profession and practice medicine regularly in the city of Corpus Christi. I am a Citizen of the U.S. and served as a Medical Officer during the Second World War. I am president of the American G.I. Forum, Independents Veterans Organization, established in Corpus Christi with the object of mutual help for Veterans and Veterans' families in the state of Texas.

On Jan. 10, 1949, Tuesday, at approximately 7 PM Miss Sara Moreno talked to me on the telephone and informed me that her sister Mrs. Beatrice Longoria had been refused the use of the "chapel" of the Rice Funeral Home at Three Rivers. She wanted to use the "chapel" for the remains of her husband Felix Longoria who was being brought back to "Three Rivers". Miss Moreno stated that Mr. Kennedy the manager of the "Rice Funeral Home" had informed her that she could not use the chapel because he was afraid that "the whites would not like it." I talked to Mrs. Longoria and she told me that it was true. She stated that at that time she had been satisfied with the "suggestion" made by Mr. Kennedy to have the body at her home. However, now she would authorize me to contact Mr. Kennedy and ask for the use of the "chapel" and if it were denied then to help her arrange for the reburial to take place in Corpus Christi, Texas. I expressed my regrets to Mrs. Longoria and promised to call up the Rice Funeral Home immediately.

I made a long distance call to Three Rivers and asked to talk to the owner of the "Rice Funeral Home.". The person that answered the phone said "I am Mr. Kennedy.". I stated that I wanted to talk to the owner and he stated: "he would take care of any business.2.

I informed Mr. Kennedy that I was Dr. Hector Garcia from Corpus Christi and that I was talking by authority of Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and I proceeded:

" Mr Kennedy, Mrs. Longoria has authorized me to ask you to please let her use your funeral home to bring the remains of her husband Felix Longoria."

"Mr. Kennedy replied: " It can't be done, and besides we reached an agreement with Mrs. Longoria whereby she would use her home instead and she seemed satisfied."

" Mr Kennedy, Mrs. Longoria was not satisfied and she has authorized me to ask you to please let her use your funeral home." I said.

"That cannot be done" said Mr. Kennedy.

I answered by saying "But why, Mr Kennedy?".

Mr. Kennedy answered "Well, you see, the last time the Latin Americans used the home the had fights and got drunk and raised lots of noise and it didn't look so good. You understand how some of the are.

I said "Yes, I understand."

Then Mr Kennedy proceeded: "And whabs more the "whites" here in town would not like it so much and I want to run my business in such a way as so not to hurt them. " There are some differences and I am sure that the "whites" here wouldn't like them to use my funeral home. We have net let them use it and we don't intend to let them start now. "

I said " But Mr. Kennedy this man is a veteran , I mean, Soldier who was killed in action and he is worthy of all our efforts and our greatest honors. Doesn't that make a difference,?" Can we use your funeral home, ?

He answered, " No, No , it can't be done and it doesn't make any difference. I don't dislike the Mexican people but al Have to run my business so I can't do that. You understand the whites here won't like it.

I answered: Yes, I understand Mr Kennedy, Thank You.

After this conversation I called Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and informed her that the mission had been a failure but that I would try to arrange the details so that the funeral would take place in Corpus Christi and that if necessary the American C.I. Forum would pay for the expenses. Mrs. Longoria authorized me to proceed with making those arrangements. I called the Caller Times and asked Mr. George Groph to confirm the story which he did by calling Mr. Kenedy.

After talking to Mrs. Longoria and Miss Sara Moreno and before calling Rice Funeral Home I decided that in view of the seriousness of the matter and the probability that later Mr. Kennedy would deny making such statements I asked my nurse Miss Gladys Blucher to listen on the extension and she can verify all of my statements.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
by Hector P. Garcia on this 9th day
of February, A. D. 1949, to certify
which witness my hand and seal of
office.

Hector de Pena

Hector P. Garcia
Hector P. Garcia M.D.
HECTOR DE PENA
Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas

My commission expires June 1, 1949.

COPY

STATEMENT

On Monday, January 10, 1949, about 7:30 P.M., Miss Sara Moreno called Dr. Hector Garcia about her sister, Beatrice Longoria, from Three Rivers, Texas. Mrs. Longoria stated that her soldier husband's body was soon to arrive in Three Rivers and she had tried to get the Rice Funeral Home to handle the Funeral Arrangements. She was told that the Chapel could not be used—being that "the whites objected." Dr. Hector Garcia immediately called the Rice Funeral Home at Three Rivers, Texas, to check Mrs. Longoria's story. Thinking that it would be wise to have his Secretary, Gladys Blucher, listen to the conversation, he told her to listen on the other telephone, being the same line.

Conversation on the telephone:

Dr. H. Garcia asked: "May I speak to Mr. Rice please?"

Other Voice: "Kenedy speaking."

Dr. Garcia: "May I speak to the Manager, please?"

Other Voice: "This is he speaking."

Dr. Garcia: "This is Dr. Garcia from Corpus Christi. There is a lady here who came to see me. Her name is Beatrice Longoria from Three Rivers, Texas. She tells me that she went by to ask use of your funeral home. Do you remember her?"

Mr. T.W. Kenedy: "Yes, I recall. I explained everything to Beatrice and we came to an agreement to use her house and she was very well satisfied."

Dr. Garcia: "Oh yes, Mr. Kenedy, but she has changed her mind and she does want to use your Funeral Home."

Mr. Kenedy: "Oh no, that can't be done—that just can't be done!"

Dr. Garcia: "Buy why, Mr. Kenedy?"

Mr. Kenedy: "Well, you see it's this way—this is a small town and you know how it is, I'm sure you'll understand. I am the only Funeral Home here, and I have to do what the white people want. The white people just don't like it."

Dr. Garcia: "Yes, Mr. Kenedy. But in this case this boy is a Veteran, doesn't that make any difference?"

Mr. Kenedy: "That doesn't make any difference. You know how the Latin people get drunk and lay around all the time. The last time we let them use the chapel, they get all drunk and we just can't control them—so the white people object to it, and we just can't let them use it. I'm sure you'll understand, and it's like I told Beatrice."

Dr. Garcia: "Yes, I understand, Mr. Kenedy. Thank you!"

sgd/ Gladys Blucher

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by Gladys Blucher on this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1949, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

sgd/ Hector de Pena

Hector de Pena

Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas
My commission expires June 1. 1949

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Dr. Garcia: "Yes, I understand, Mr. Kenedy. Thank you!"

sgd/ Gladys Blucher

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by Gladys Blucher on this the 9th day of February, A. D. 1949, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

sgd/ Hector de Pena

Hector de Pena

Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas
My commission expires June 1. 1949

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I returned to Corpus Christi to consult with my family about the incident. One of my sisters immediately got in contact with the "American GI Forum", a Veterans Organization of which Dr. Hector P. Garcia is president and I authorized Dr. Garcia to try to get the use of the Chapel for my husband's services. I told Dr. Garcia that unless he could get the Chapel, we would bury him instead at Corpus Christi. Dr. Garcia then called Mr. Kennedy and was told by Mr. Kennedy that "they had never let the Latin Americans use the Chapel and were not starting now, even if he was a soldier killed in action." Dr. Garcia also called the Caller-Times, local newspaper and a Caller-Times reporter, Mr. George Groph, who then called Mr. Kennedy and was told the same thing.

/s/ Mrs. Beatrice Longoria
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria

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/s/ Hector de Pena
Hector DePena
Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas
My commission expires June 1, 1949

(Seal)

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Notary Public, Bexar County, Texas
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Mrs. Beatrice Longoria

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Notary Public, Nueces County, Texas
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Dr. Garcia: "Yes, I understand Mr. Kenedy. Thank you!"

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COPY

February 9, 1949

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF NUECES
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

My name is Hector P. Garcia, M.D. I am a Physician Surgeon by profession and practice medicine regularly in the city of Corpus Christi. I am a citizen of the U.S. and served as a Medical Officer during the Second World War. I am president of the American G. I. Forum, Independent Veterans Organization, established in Corpus Christi with the object of mutual help for Veterans and veterans' families in the State of Texas.

On Jan. 10, 1949, Tuesday, at approximately 7 P.M. Miss Sara Moreno talked to me on the telephone and informed me that her sister, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria had been refused the use of the "chapel" of the Rice Funeral Home at Three Rivers. She wanted to use the "chapel" for the remains of her husband Felix Longoria who was being brought back to "Three Rivers". Miss Moreno stated that Mr. Kennedy the manager of the "Rice Funeral Home" had informed her that she could not use the chapel because he was afraid that "the whites would not like it." I talked to Mrs. Longoria and she told me that it was true. She stated that at that time she had been satisfied with the "suggestion" made by Mr. Kennedy to have the body at her home. However, now she would authorize me to contact Mr. Kennedy and ask for the use of the "chapel" and if it were denied then to help her arrange for the reburial to take place in Corpus Christi, Texas. I expressed my regrets to Mrs. Longoria and promised to call up the Rice Funeral Home immediately.

I made a long distance call to Three Rivers and asked to talk to the owner of the Rice Funeral Home. The person that answered the phone said "I am Mr. Kennedy." I stated that I wanted to talk to the owner and he stated: "He would take care of any business."

I informed Mr. Kennedy that I was Dr. Hector Garcia from Corpus Christi and that I was talking by authority of Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and I proceeded:

"Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Longoria has authorized me to ask you to please let her use your funeral home to bring the remains of her husband Felix Longoria."

"Mr. Kennedy replied: "It can't be done, and besides we reached an agreement with Mrs. Longoria whereby she would use her home instead and she seemed satisfied."

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I answered by saying, "But why, Mr. Kennedy?".

Mr. Kennedy answered, "Well, you see, the last time the Latin Americans used the home they had fights and got drunk and raised lots of noise and it didn't look so good. You understand how some of them are."

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After this conversation I called Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and informed her that the mission had been a failure but that I would try to arrange the details so that the funeral would take place in Corpus Christi and that if necessary the American G. I. Forum would pay for the expenses. Mrs. Longoria authorized me to proceed with making those arrangements, I called the Caller-Times and asked Mr. George Broph to confirm the story which he did by calling Mr. Kennedy

After talking to Mrs. Longoria and Miss Sara Moreno and before calling Rice Funeral Home I decided that in view of the seriousness of the matter and the probability that later Mr. Kennedy would deny making such statements I asked my nurse Miss Gladys Blucher to listen on the extension and she can verify all of my statements.

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THE CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Feb. 18, 1949

The following is a full and correct statement as to my personal knowledge of the Longoria incident.

As a reporter for the Caller-Times, I have covered the activities of the American GI Forum. On the night of Jan. 10, Dr. Hector Garcia called me at my home. He said Rice Funeral Home of Three Rivers had refused chapel services for Felix Longoria, a soldier killed in action, and said the Forum would hold a protest meeting the following night.

I then called Mr. Kennedy, operator of the funeral home, to verify the story. Specifically warning him that he spoke for publication, I asked him if the funeral home had refused chapel services for Longoria. He said that was true.

I then asked if that refusal was based on Longoria's race. "We never made a practice of letting Mexicans use the chapel," Kennedy said, "and we don't want to start now." He added that "most of them" (Latins) did not want chapel services.

I then asked if he had ever held a Latin service in the chapel, and he said that he had not.

John Anderson, a Caller-Times reporter who shares my duplex, was present during most of these phone conversations, and heard my end of the talk. I warned Kennedy at the time that he "had hold of a hot potato", but he seemed to believe that the whole thing amounted to very little.

The next day I called Mr. Kennedy again, and he told me that he would "discourage" the chapel service for Longoria, but would not refuse if the family insisted. He did not then deny his statements of the previous night. Later he did retract his original statements, and his denials were duly noted in our paper.

I am making this statement, at the request of Garcia, because an investigation has been ordered. I was not acquainted with any of the Longorias previous to the incident, and have no personal interest except in my own news stories, which were correct accounts of the incident as it developed.

George Bron (Sig.)

COPY

February 9, 1949

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF NUECES
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

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