

OCTOBER 20 1947

"South Texas War Dead Have Returned," So read an announcement recently in the Caller-Times, local daily. Our soldiers have returned to the land of Democracy. They have returned to their anguished mothers, to their widowed wives, and to their orphaned children, Yes, they have returned "Dead."

Observe, if you please, the list of the first returned and notice that there are 19 South Texans. Fourteen of these 19 are Latin Americans or Mexicans and five of the 19 are Anglo Americans. The names of the Latins are: Aguilar, Ayala, Balli, Gomez, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Lazcano, Pena, Perez, Pumarajo, Ramirez, Ruelas, Tolenta, and Zapata. The anglos are: Abbot, Denkeler, Fritheer, Reis, and Rolls.

I wonder if some of those lives might not have been lost if those American soldiers had had a better education, if segregation was not habitually and repeatedly practiced in our schools. If segregation were not the rule instead of the exception perhaps those soldiers would have learned more and by so doing they would have been better equipped and trained to defend themselves from the methods of the enemy. School officials take note, I say, lives could have been saved if it were not for your willful action, conduct and usage of segregation and discrimination.

These soldiers, both Latins and Anglos gave their lives for the same country--our country. Schooling or language difficulties or inability to speak English did not make any difference when the call came. They fought and died in foreign and hostile shores believing in their country and what to them it represented. They firmly believed in the Ideals of Democracy: Liberty, Equality, and Free om of Education. Today they are returned to the same land where they were discriminated against and where their brothers, sisters, and their own children are still segregated.

Let those officials, including Principals and Superintendents who in their ignorance, narrow mindedness and underhanded dealings segregated them deliver and Tlegy on their return. Let them by their same inept, nauseating, ridiculous logic explain to our minority the benefits that the returned dead received in their schools. Let these Principals, Superintendents, etc. explain how it helped them to die. Let these men of learning explain also how it will help our present children to prepare themselves for the next world Catastrophe. Are our children now being prepared in the same selfish-discriminatory manner?

Let them by their explanations soothe the anguish of the mothers and alleviate the sufferings and humiliations of our children.

If these self-styled Educators had a true conscience they would resign their positions; relinquishing same to men of liberal views, with modern class room ideas, greater vision, and true faith in the Principles and Ideals of this great Democratic Country of ours.

By Dr. Helen Garcia