

**DOLIA GONZÁLEZ COLLECTION OF ALFREDO “FREDDY” GONZÁLEZ
MATERIALS**
Finding Aid

Compiled by
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Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2015



*Founded in 1967 as the
Hidalgo County Historical Museum*

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SUMMARY

Size	0.66 cubic feet plus artifacts
Geographic Locations	Edinburg, Texas; Corpus Christi, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1951-1996
Bulk Dates	1968-1969
Languages	English, Spanish
Summary	Marine Sgt. Alfredo “Freddy” González, a native of Edinburg, Texas, was killed in action in Hue City, Vietnam, on February 4, 1968. His mother Dolia González collected the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor he earned as well as other military and civilian honors. The collection also contains the correspondence she received at his death and some of Freddy’s high school awards.
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Related Collections	RGPHO? Bio book 1983.041 and 1985.046
Citation	Dolia González collection of Alfredo “Freddy” González materials. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 690-693, I:1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Dolia Gonzalez is the oldest child of Luz and Hermine Gonzalez of Edinburg, Texas. She raised her son Freddy alone while working as a waitress in the 1950s. In later years she was a volunteer at the Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School in Edinburg. She is also a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

Alfredo Cantu "Freddy" González was born on May 23, 1946, in Edinburg, Texas. His parents were Andrés Cantu and Dolia González. He attended Edinburg High School where he played football and graduated in 1965.

González enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in San Antonio, Texas, on June 3, 1965. About a month later he enlisted in the regular Marine Corps where he was a rifleman. On January 1, 1966, he was promoted to Private First Class and served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967.

In July 1967, González was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in Vietnam where he served as a platoon commander during his second tour of duty. On January 31, 1968, González and his platoon became part of a truck convoy making its way to Hue City. When the convoy came under attack, González and his men overcame the enemy snipers. González was wounded several times during the fighting that took place over the next four days. On February 4, González was mortally wounded in Hue City while holding back the enemy advance and destroying an enemy rocket position.

The U.S. Congress posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to González on October 31, 1969. Other medals he received include the Purple Heart (three times), the Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with service star, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Vietnam Military Merit Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. In 2007 the Texas State Legislature awarded González the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor.

Other honors, both military and civilian, have been bestowed upon González. The *USS Alfredo González* (DDG 66), an Arleigh Burke Class guided missile destroyer, was commissioned in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1996. It is still in active service. Other military memorials include the Alfredo González Dining Hall at Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Alfredo González Boulevard in Camp Lajeune, North Carolina. The civilian honors include the Alfredo González Athletic Award at Edinburg High School, Alfredo Cantu González American Legion Post No. 408, Freddy González Elementary School, and Freddy González Drive all in Edinburg, Texas.

González was interred at Hillcrest Cemetery in Edinburg, Texas. He is survived by his mother Dolia González.

Bibliography:

Art Leatherwood and Alicia A. Garza, "GONZALEZ, ALFREDO CANTU," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fgoqp>), accessed February 05, 2014. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"ALFREDO CANTU CONZÁLEZ," *Texas State Cemetery* (http://www.cemetery.state.tx.us/pub/user_form.asp?step=1&pers_id=11265), accessed February 5, 2014. Published by Texas State Cemetery.

"MEDAL OF HONOR: TEXAS LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS," *Fort Chadbourne: The New Star in Texas* (<http://www.fortchadbourne.org/medal-of-honor-texas-legislative-medal-of-honor.html>), accessed February 5, 2014. Published by The Fort Chadbourne Foundation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Marine Sgt. Alfredo "Freddy" González, a native of Edinburg, Texas, was killed in action in Hue City, Vietnam, on February 4, 1968. His mother Dolia González collected the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor he earned as well as other military and civilian honors. The collection also contains the correspondence she received at his death and some of Freddy's high school awards.

The military awards in the collection include the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor and its citation, the Purple Heart Medal and its award, certificates of honorable service, and certificates of promotion. Correspondence is comprised of telegrams, letters and cards of condolence, and invitations. The photographs in the collection depict Mrs. González and Freddy when he was a child, award ceremonies, and the cemetery where Freddy is buried. Freddy's 1965 diploma from Edinburg High School is also found in the collection.

NOTE: Some items in this collection have neither an accession number nor a provenance. They include the book *Part of the Team (Story of an American Hero)* by Sol Marroquin; three copies of "United States Ship González (DDG 66) Commissioning Ceremony, Saturday, 12 October 1996, Ingleside, Texas" program [*probably donated by Tom Fort, Historian, Museum of South Texas History*]; three copies of *The Foc'sle*, Vol. 5, No. 13, October 18, 1996; five *USS González DDG 66* decals; and two "Edinburg All-American City 1995" stamps.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

I. Awards

II. Military papers

III. Correspondence

A. Telegrams

B. Condolence

C. Awards

D. Invitations

IV. Photographs and illustration

V. High school diploma

VI. Published materials

A. *Congressional Record*, October 31, 1969

**B. Book: *Part of the Team (Story of an American Hero)*, by Sol Marroquin,
1979**

VII. *United States Ship González (DDG 66)* materials

VIII. Miscellaneous

IX. Artifacts

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Awards

Sergeant Alfredo González received several posthumous awards in 1968 and 1969. They included an honorable service certificate, the Purple Heart and the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor. This series contains the certificates for those awards as well as their covers.

The medals that are part of the collection include Medal of Honor (1981.074.01), Purple Heart (1981.074.06), National Defense Service Medal (1981.074.05), Vietnam Service Medal with four service stars (1981.074.08), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with service star (1981.074.04b), Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm leaf (1981.074.04a), Vietnam Military Merit Medal (1981.074.03), Vietnam Campaign Medals (1981.074.09-11), and Rifle Marksman Medal (1981.074.14). For more information about the artifacts listed above, contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911,

II. Military papers

The military papers include promotion certificates, a uniform accessory display card, and two pieces of correspondence.

III. Correspondence

Correspondence is comprised of telegrams, letters and cards of condolence, and invitations. One of the messages is a radiogram Freddy sent to Dolia through amateur radio operator Joe V. Wright from Rockport, Texas. Two of the telegrams inform Mrs. González of her son's death and the arrival of his remains in Brownsville. Condolence letters are from President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, U.S. Congressman Kika de la Garza, Texas Governor John Connally, and U.S. Army General W.C. Westmoreland among others. The invitations are for various programs honoring Alfredo González.

IV. Photographs and illustration

The photographs in the collection depict Dolia González and Alfredo when he was a child, award ceremonies, and the cemetery where Alfredo is buried. Alfredo's military photographs are included in this series.

Childhood photographs:

- 1981.074.25 Black and white snapshot of Dolia González with young Alfredo and an unidentified child. They are standing in a yard with a boy on each side of Mrs. González. A white house is in the upper right of the photograph. Dated June 1951. 3.5"x5" The photo has a black, Greek key border.

Excellent condition.

- 1981.074.26 Black and white snapshot of young Alfredo with two unidentified children. The girl in the middle is wearing a white dress and a white scarf tied around her head. The children are standing outside near a white house. Dated June 1951. 3.5"x5" The photo has a black, Greek key border. The photograph is very faded and cloudy looking.

Military photographs:

- 1981.074.27 Black and white portrait of Alfredo González in his Marine dress uniform. Note on back: "Official U. S. Navy Photograph not for publication unless officially released." Undated. 8"x10" Some wrinkling scattered across the photograph.
- 1981.074.28a Color portrait of Alfredo González wearing his Marine camouflaged helmet. Undated. 8"x10" Good condition. Some glue is on the back showing that it was at one time adhered to red construction paper.

Award photographs:

- 1981.074.24 Black and white photograph of Dolia González being told by a military officer that her son had been given the Medal of Honor. They are sitting on a sofa, and the officer has papers in his hands. González is wearing a jumper and a white long sleeve blouse. She is wearing her hair in a chignon. Note on back: "Hero's mother." Undated. 5"x6" Good condition except for some tape in the center of the back.
- 1981.074.23a Color photograph of Medal of Honor for Alfredo González being presented to his mother Dolia González. González and Vice President Spiro Agnew are holding the framed Medal of Honor. Kika de la Garza is standing to the left of the Vice President. There are five unidentified soldiers in the photograph, also. Undated. 8"x10" Color is fading and turning green.
- 1981.074.23b Color photograph of Dolia González receiving her son's Medal of Honor from Vice President Spiro Agnew. They are shaking hands while Agnew is holding the framed Medal of Honor. Undated. 8"x10" Color is beginning to fade.

Cemetery photographs:

- 1981.074.29 Color snapshot of Dolia González standing at a grave in a cemetery. There are two United States flags decorating the gravestone. Dated February 4, 1978. 3.5"x4.5" Good condition.

- 1981.074.30 Color snapshot of Dolia González and an unidentified man standing at a grave in a cemetery. The man is holding a red book. Dated February 4, 1978. 3.5"x4.5" Good condition.
- 1981.074.31 Color snapshot of the González gravestone. Dated February 4, 1978. 3.5"x4.5" Good condition.
- 1981.074.32 Color snapshot of Dolia González standing between two unidentified women at a grave in a cemetery. The woman on the right is holding a red book. Dated February 4, 1978. 3.5"x4.5" Good condition.

Book jacket photograph:

- 1981.074.28b Color photograph of the book jacket of the book "*Part of the Team*" (*Story of an American Hero*) by Jerry Marroquin. Undated. 8"x10" Good condition. Some glue is on the back showing that it was at one time adhered to red construction paper.

V. High school diploma

The Edinburg High School diploma found in this series was awarded to Alfredo Cantu in 1965. The diploma cover is also included.

VI. Published materials

Page H10388 from the October 31, 1969 issue of the *Congressional Record* is included here. It contains an address by Kika de la Garza describing the Medal of Honor ceremony for Sgt. Alfredo González. The entire issue of the May 7, 1970 issue of the *Congressional Record* is included along with a letter that accompanied it from General L.F. Chapman, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. The *Record* contains the citations for the military personnel from all branches who earned the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam conflict. The citation for González is found on page H4053.

VII. *United States Ship González (DDG 66)* materials

This series contains 18 undated, oval-shaped, color *United States Ship González (DDG 66)* decals. Twelve of the decals are 4.5"x3.5" and six are 2.5"x2".

VIII. Miscellaneous

Unaccessioned materials have been incorporated in the Miscellaneous series. The miscellaneous items include a photograph envelope postmarked 1966 and an undated list of fellow soldiers, a reference query letter to Mrs. A.A. McAllen, photographs of photographs, the book *Part of the Team*, decals and stamps, the program of the USS González commission ceremony and loose papers, *The Foc'sle*, and a copy of the *Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California*.

IX. Artifacts

The artifacts in the collection consist of a U.S. Marines dress uniform, a Texas flag, and ten medals. The medals include the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with service star, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, the Vietnam Military Merit Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal (2), and the Rifle Marksman Medal. For more information about the artifacts in the collection contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911.

INDEX TERMS

Congressional Medal of Honor
Connally, John Bowden, Jr., 1917-1993
de la Garza, Eligio "Kika," II, 1927-
Edinburg High School
González (Naval vessel: DDG 66)
González, Alfredo "Freddy," 1946-1968
González, Dolia, 1929-
Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 1908-1973
Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913-1994
Purple Heart Medal
Tower, John Goodwin, 1925-1991
Westmoreland, William Childs, 1914-2005

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
I:1	RGDOC 690	1	Awards: U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor Citation, 1969
		2	Awards: Purple Heart Award and the Official Seal of the United State Marine Corps, 1968
		3	Awards: Honorable Service certificate, 1968
		4	Military papers: promotion certificates, 1966-1967
		5	Military papers: uniform accessory display card, undated
		6	Military papers: first and second endorsement on OIC (Officer in Charge), 1969
		7	Military papers: income tax information request, 1966
		8	Correspondence: Radiogram: from Freddy, 1966
		9	Correspondence: Telegrams: Death, 1968
		10	Correspondence: Telegrams: awards related, 1969
		11	Correspondence: Condolence: Official – President Lyndon Johnson, 1968
		12	Correspondence: Condolence: Official – Texas Governor John Connally, 1968
		13	Correspondence: Condolence: Official – military, 1968
		14	Correspondence: Condolence: Official – Congressional members, 1968
		15	Correspondence: Condolence: Friends, 1968, undated
		16	Correspondence: Awards – Kika de la Garza, 1969
		17	Correspondence: Invitations, 1968, 1974
		18	High school diploma, Edinburg High School, Alfredo Cantu, 1965
		19	Published materials: <i>Congressional Record</i> , October 31, 1969 and May 7, 1970
		20	<i>United States Ship González</i> (DDG 66) decals, undated
		21	Miscellaneous: Photograph envelope; list of fellow soldiers, 1966, undated
	RGDOC 691	1	Photographs: Childhood photographs, 1951
		2	Photographs: Military photographs, undated

		3	Photographs: Award photographs, undated
		4	Photographs: Cemetery photographs, 1978
		5	Photographs: Book jacket, undated
	RGDOC 692	1	Miscellaneous: Letter: Robert Grierson, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 13, 1976 to Mrs. A.A. McAllen, Edinburg, Texas
		2	Miscellaneous: Photographs of photographs, undated
		3	Miscellaneous: <i>Part of the Team</i> , 1979
		4	Miscellaneous: decals and stamps, undated and 1995
		5	Miscellaneous: Program – United States Ship Gonzalez (DDG 66) Commissioning Ceremony, 1996
		6	Miscellaneous: loose papers from Commissioning Ceremony programs, including an invitation mailed to Tom Fort, 1996
		7	Miscellaneous: <i>The Foc'sle</i> , October 18, 1996
		8	Military papers: <i>Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California</i> , 1965
	RGDOC 693	1	Edinburg High School diploma cover, 1965
		2	U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor Citation cover, 1969
		3	Purple Heart Award cover, 1968