



**Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. Inc.**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**



**NATIONAL COMMANDER FRANCIS KOWALSKI, DEACON VILLANUEVA,  
BOARD OF OFFICERS, PAST NATIONAL OFFICERS, PAST DEPARTMENT  
COMMANDERS, POST COMMANDERS, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DAIS,  
MEMBERS AND DELEGATES**

**Welcome to one and all.**

**This convention is dedicated to Past Department Commander Mr. Arturo Longoria in memory of his service to our country, the Catholic War Veterans, and his community. Commander Longoria was the most senior Past Department Commander in the department when died on December 30, 2017. Mr. Longoria served in the United States Air Force, graduated from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, and was a member of Catholic War Veterans Post 1065 in Mission, Texas for over sixty years. God bless Mr. Arturo Longoria, and may he rest in peace.**

**It has been a year that we began this journey when we were elected in Lubbock, Texas on April 2017. The trip has not been smooth but rather rocky. But through it all we have survived it.**

**Immediately upon taking the reigns to this team we were hit with two things staring us in the face: Recruiting and retention; and wait a long list of other challenges. I was pulled aside by Past Department Commander, Mr. Silva (and with that “we are not through yet”, or “come here you” smile) he stated Commander Mendoza I have carried you this far, and then he handed me a pamphlet, and said, “Now you are responsible for the department going forward and these are just a few things that you and your officers will have to do. I stood there for a while and looked at him and I said to him “thank you, sir we will do our best.**

**Well, I felt like sitting down and asking myself, now what? But after a moment of complete silence I knew that we had a job to do.**

**So, now here we are a year later at convention and acknowledging that we did not shy way from our duties and we successfully accomplished a lot.**

**To the Board of Officers, I want to give you my sincere thanks for helping me maneuver this giant during the past year. However, the ones that really deserve the thanks and gratitude are our post commanders, their officers, and members because that is where as the saying goes “is where the rubber meets the road”. These brave individuals are the ones that face the heat and all that is thrown in their direction.**

**I know that there were times that they probably used words that are not printable when they received correspondence from me and it was expected. I understood their feelings because I have also been down in the trenches. I have a lot of respect and compassion for all of you; especially, the post commanders.**

**And I must state that we still have a lot to do. We are going to work hard but we are going to work smart. We are going to ask for assistance from all the resources available to us.**

**We ended up with eleven posts with a membership strength of 380 and 70 members in suspension. One of our goals was to retain what we had on our rosters plus 10%. We will continue to work towards that goal.**

**I would be remiss if I overlooked the hard work and support extended to me and the Department of Texas by our Auxiliary. Thank you very much for all that you do.**

**I want to conclude by saying that hopefully we will remain as a team; a team that I feel has gotten to believe that objectives can be attained if we work together and not alone. Thank you.**

**“Team Work”**

**Julian A. Mendoza  
Department of Texas  
Commander**