

OCTOBER 23, 1945

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL, AT 11:00 O'CLOCK, A.M., ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 1945.

PRESENT: Mauermann, Callaghan, Hein, Steffler, Anderson. Mayor Mauermann presiding.

THE CLERK read the call as follows:

October 22, 1945

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:-

GENTLEMEN:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter of the City of San Antonio, I hereby call you in Special Session to be held at 11:00 o'clock, A.M., on Tuesday, October 23rd, 1945, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall of San Antonio, Texas, for the purpose of:

Paying due honor, in the name of the City of San Antonio, to Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez, a San Antonian who has brought great glory to our City by his many accomplishments, feats of heroism and acts of gallantry on the bloody battlefields of World War II.

Sergeant Rodriguez truly exemplifies all of the finest attributes of Americans, Texans and San Antonians, returning, as he has, to his home town as one of the most-decorated men of our nation's mighty armed forces-- and bearing proudly, as his latest and greatest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest decoration which it is within the power of our nation to bestow, and one which is awarded to the very few who stand out in the pages of military history as the most heroic representatives of a country famed for its first-class fighting men.

In view of the great debt which our City and our nation owe to Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez and the valiant heroes he so fittingly represents, it is proper that we assemble at this time to honor and thank him.

s/ Gus B. Mauermann  
GUS B. MAUERMANN  
MAYOR

Receipt of notice of above Special Meeting of the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio is hereby acknowledged:

s/ Alfred Callaghan  
Commissioner of Taxation

s/ Henry F. Hein  
Commissioner of Sanitation, Parks  
& Public Property

s/ Paul E. Steffler  
Commissioner of Streets &  
Public Improvements

s/ P. L. Anderson  
Commissioner of Fire & Police

MAYOR MAUERMANN read his Proclamation of "Cleto Rodriguez Day", as follows:

A PROCLAMATION  
"CLETO RODRIGUEZ DAY"  
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KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

It is our honor and privilege today to pay personal tribute to Technical Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez, who recently received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman at the White House.

The award was made because of conspicuous gallantry displayed by Cleto Rodriguez, then a private first-class, when he and a companion pitted their lives against three hundred Japanese soldiers in Manila, killing eighty-two of them. This occurred at the Paco Railroad Station on February 9, 1945. His company of the 37th Infantry "Buckeye" Division had halted its drive against the station when heavy fire from the enemy pinned them down. Cleto Rodriguez and a companion voluntarily decided to advance alone in an attempt to secure a position nearer the station. In the fierce fighting that followed, he and his companion completely disorganized the defense of the enemy, and paved the way for its subsequent overwhelming defeat at this strong point.

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It is our desire to acknowledge a sacred debt of gratitude to Cleto Rodriguez for his heroic action beyond the call of duty. We shall remember and forever cherish in our hearts his patriotism, zeal, and love of country. We shall recall that he was ready to lay down his life for his country.

We are thankful that he was not called upon to make that sacrifice, but that he has returned to his home city, and that we have the opportunity to honor him here, in the presence of his relatives and friends, for his service to our country, and for the particular act of heroism and courage that won for him our nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Cleto Rodriguez has brought great honor to the City of San Antonio. We are proud to acclaim him one of our most distinguished citizens. In gratitude for his patriotism and for his service to our great and just cause, we are firmly resolved to be worthy of him and his record of heroism.

As a slight token of our deep appreciation, I, Gus B. Mauermann, Mayor of the City of San Antonio, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 23, 1945,

CLETO RODRIGUEZ DAY IN SAN ANTONIO.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this the 20th day of October, A.D. 1945.

s/ Gus B. Mauermann  
MAYOR

Attest:

s/ Frank W. Brady  
City Clerk

Mayor Mauermann, as master of ceremonies, then introduced Col. John E. Grose, Commanding Officer, Special Troops, Fourth Army, as the Army representative for the ceremonies.

Col. Grose spoke briefly on the heroism of the Medal of Honor winner, eulogizing Sergt. Rodriguez as "one of the bravest soldiers this war has produced".

The Honorable Gustavo Ortiz Hernan, Consul General of Mexico in San Antonio, then saluted the honor guest in the name of the Republic of Mexico. Consul General Ortiz Hernan spoke as follows:

"Today is a day of pride for Mexico. The foundations of our history tremble with joy, because the blood of the fathers of our country has flown again in the veins of a modest, steely young man; because the bones of our heroes are not ashes any more, but are vigor, are renewed life in the body and the soul of Cleto Rodriguez. But our nation cannot claim as its own and exclusive honor, the honor conquered by this champion born in the plains of Texas. Neither can San Antonio nor a flag nor a race, demand his name as their own. The heroes of ancient times were claimed by seven cities. In a deeper sense, seven hundred cities could call Cleto Rodriguez their own son, because his victorious fight was fought for a new and only race --- the human race --- because his heroism was given to the highest cause; the freedom and the dignity of man upon the earth.

"In the name of the Republic of Mexico, I salute, in Cleto Rodriguez, a hero of the glorious American Army, the symbol of the hope of the world."

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Brig. Gen. Michael F. Davis, Commanding General, San Antonio Army Air Forces District Personnel Distribution Center, made a short address, congratulating the Medal of Honor winner.

Mr. C. W. Miller, President, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, described this occasion as "a happy day for San Antonio". He continued: "We are happy that Sergeant Rodriguez won the Congressional Medal of Honor, and doubly happy that he is here today to wear it."

Stating that a Medal of Honor winner is entitled to a salute from all members of the Armed Forces of the United States, even from General officers, Mr. Miller concluded:

"Today it is San Antonio's privilege to salute Sergeant Rodriguez."

Responding, Sergeant Rodriguez stated he was "indeed deeply grateful for this wonderful reception."

He continued:

"I am happy to have had the privilege to serve our glorious country, and I thank God for the victory achieved by our nation and its Allies in this global war."

He then requested all present to join him in a moment of silent prayer for his buddy, Private John Reese, and "all my other comrades-in-arms who died for our country".

The entire assemblage then joined in an impressive moment of silent prayer.

Private Reese was Sergeant Rodriguez' companion and gave his life in the action for which Rodriguez was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Other speakers who joined in the program and paid honor to Sergeant Rodriguez included: County Judge Charles W. Anderson;

Mr. Alfonso Garza, President of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce;

Mr. Ramon Galindo, President of the Pan-American Optimist Club;

Mr. Joe Olivares, representing the League of United Latin-American Citizens;

Mrs. G. R. Magnon, representing the Selene Club;

Dr. Bertil Korling, Consul of Honduras in San Antonio;

Mr. Alonzo S. Perales, Consul of Nicaragua in San Antonio;

Mr. Joel S. Quinones, Consul of Mexico in San Antonio;

Mr. Alex R. Thomas, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and President of the Planning Board of San Antonio and Bexar County;

Mr. Herman G. Nami, Department Commander for the State of Texas of the American Legion;

Mr. M. C. Gonzales, Mexican Consulate Attorney, and Commissioners Callaghan, Hein, Steffler and Anderson.

Other prominent guests included:

Mr. and Mrs. Regino Hernandez, the aunt and uncle who raised Sergeant Rodriguez;

Miss Flora Munoz, fiancee of Sergeant Rodriguez;

Col. C. H. Moore and Lieut. Col. Millard Butcher, representing Brig. Gen. Charles K. Nulsen, Commanding General, Fort Sam Houston;

Judge W. O. Murray;

Judge J. R. Norvell;

Mr. John E. Zeller;

Mr. John Bridgers;

Mrs. S. M. Meeks, Constable, Precinct No. 1, Bexar County.

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Also participating in the program were many other guests and officials, impossible of enumeration in the short space of these minutes, but including representatives of the Spanish-American War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and all veterans' organizations, representatives of all the City's patriotic and civic societies, and the heads of all departments of the City government.

The program was broadcast over Radio Station W.O.A.I. for the benefit of all citizens of San Antonio and Texas. Mr. Bud Thorpe of the W.O.A.I. staff assisted the Mayor as master of ceremonies and presided over the broadcast.

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Following the ceremonies, there being no further business, the Special Meeting of the City Council adjourned Tuesday, October 23, 1945.

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APPROVED:

*Sam M. Auersman*

M A Y O R

ATTEST:

*Frank Brady*  
City Clerk

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