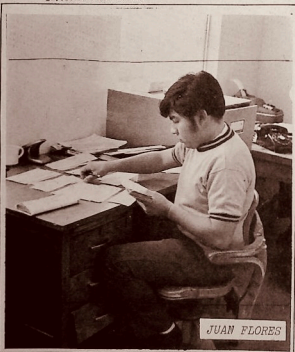




The most decorated and honored ethnic group during World War II and the Korean War was the Chicano. By percentage, he received more Medals of Honor than anyone. He has traditionally responded to the 'call to arms' rapidly and bravely, without questioning why. Even today, in Viet Nam, the Chicano has the 'best', most impressive combat record in the service.



## Two Who

EL MALCRIADO recently interviewed Frank Pastillas, a Viet Nam veteran, who received seven medals for heroism and bravery under fire.

### "I DIDN'T KNOW..."

"I was working in the fields when my draft notice came. I had always been classified 1A, I didn't even know what a deferment was. So I had no choice, I packed my bags and went to war.

"I didn't know anything about Viet Nam. I didn't know why we were fighting there and they would never take the time to explain it to me. All they said was..."The enemy looks like this. Your job is to kill him."

"In the service I quickly realized though I have left the fields, with its racism and prejudice, it was only to encounter more in the Army. The NCO's openly discriminated against Chicanos. They even tried to discourage us from speaking Spanish or hanging around together."

### TWICE THE DEATH RATE

Within the Chicano community there is a new spirit awakening. Both the young and the old are protesting, not only the war in Viet Nam, but also the discrimination and racism in the United States. They object to the fact that the death rate for Chicanos in Viet Nam is twice that of any other group. Being unable to secure good jobs in the US, they know that their poverty will stop 99% of their children from ever

# Young Chicanos Faced the Draft

attending college, therefore preventing them from securing a student deferment, which is regarded as routine by the Anglo middle-class. They protest the discrimination in housing and employment that will be waiting for them if they return from Viet Nam. And now they protest Cambodia, they know it will take more Chicano lives and cause more suffering and hardship for their families.

## JUAN, A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Characteristic of this new awareness is Juan Flores. A young farmworker and striker who refused induction, Juan explained his beliefs and some of his experiences to EL MALCRIADO in a recent interview. "It has been the experiences of my life that made me decide not to go into the service. Born and raised a Catholic, I went to Catholic schools and was very active in our religious youth organization. I was also an altar boy for 10 years and believe as Saint John teaches...you cannot love God and at the same time hate your brother.

## POVERTY HELPED MAKE THE CHOICE

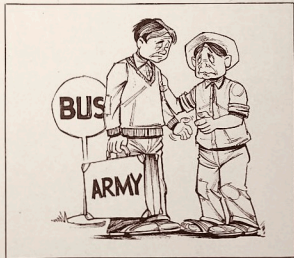
"The most vivid memory from my childhood is the death of my sister. She could have lived if my father could have afforded a doctor or proper medical treatment for her. Though my father was a veteran of World War II and had

been willing to die for this country, the bank refused to give him a loan because we were too poor.

"Perhaps what influenced me the most into becoming a conscientious objector was my contact with Cesar Chavez and his non-violent philo-

## "THEY HAVE NOT FRIGHTENED US"

"I have been highly criticized for my beliefs, but I need only to remember Cesar's words for reassurance. . . .



sophy. He proved to me that it is only through non-violence that we can achieve our rights, and I also began to realize that a person can not be non-violent of a part-time basis. My life has been totally committed to non-violence for the last five years. I can not kill another man. It would also have violated everything I believe in for me to go and kill in the name of democracy and freedom knowing that here my people are still in bondage.

"We must not guide our actions by what somebody says. We have always been the victims of malicious verbal attacks, but they have not frightened us and they will not. If we believe in non-violence, we should follow its guidance as we live our lives."

