

East Norriton Township, Montgomery County, is a 6.1-square mile municipality that was established on March 9, 1909. However, East Norriton's roots can be traced back to the early days of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The vast tract where East Norriton is located was one of William Penn's early manors known as Williamstadt. The Township's long history includes a direct connection to America's courageous fight for independence. George Washington visited his wounded troops at Bartle Bartleson's Tavern along Germantown Pike during the Revolutionary War, according to historians.

As the region grew, a number of additional municipalities did as well. Eventually, East Norriton was formally incorporated in 1909 when it was carved out of the larger municipality known as Norriton Township.

Residents have been commemorating the 100th anniversary with events throughout the past year and will continue their celebration on Friday, February 20, 2009 with a Centennial Celebration Dinner.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Township on its momentous anniversary and extending best wishes for continuing prosperity, harmony and quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FELIX
LONGORIA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor the 60th Anniversary of WWII Private Felix Longoria, the first Mexican American to be buried at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Private Felix Z. Longoria was drafted into the United States Army on November 11, 1944, at the age of 25 from Three Rivers, Texas.

While on a voluntary patrol on June 1945, Private Longoria was killed in action by a Japanese sniper in Cagayan Valley, Luzon, Philippines. He posthumously received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge for his service and sacrifice.

Sadly in 1945, when the remains of Private Longoria were finally identified and returned back to the United States, Beatrice Longoria, the widow of Private Felix Longoria, was turned away and unable to hold a funeral service for her deceased husband at a private funeral home in Three Rivers, Texas. At the time, the city of Three Rivers' sole cemetery was divided by a barbed wire fence, into two sections, one for whites and another for non-whites.

This act of discrimination moved Beatrice Longoria to contact Dr. Hector P. Garcia a surgeon general of the area, and the founder of the newly created American GI Forum.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia sent out seventeen telegrams to elected and government officials, which stated "the denial was a direct contradiction of those same principles for which this American soldier made the supreme sacrifice in giving his life for his country, and for the same people who deny him the last fu-

neral rites deserving of any American hero regardless of his origin".

Just recently founded during that time on March 26, 1948, the American GI Forum and its founder, Dr. Hector P. Garcia launched a civil rights movement to help the Longoria family.

Then a junior United States Senator, Lyndon B. Johnson, on January 11, 1949, sent a telegram to Dr. Hector P. Garcia that read ". . . I have today made arrangements to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery here in Washington where, the honored dead of our nation' war rest. . . This injustice and prejudice is deplorable. I am happy to have a part seeing that this Texas hero is laid to rest with the honor and dignity his services deserve".

Thanks to the AGIF, Dr. Garcia and Senator Johnson, Private Felix Longoria became the first Mexican American serviceman to be awarded this honor. On February 16, 1949, Private Felix Longoria was given a full military burial with honors in Arlington National Cemetery. The Longoria family was joined at the service by United States Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, Lady Bird Johnson, Congressman John Lyle and President Harry Truman's military aide, General Harry H. Vaughan.

The work and legacy of the late Dr. Hector P. Garcia and the American GI Forum that he founded, still continues to this day, in the name of all Veterans and Hispanics in the United States.

February 16, 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the burial of Private Felix Longoria, the first Mexican American servicemen to be awarded this honor. On this day, I encourage all Americans to remember the great sacrifices made by our American heroes in all the conflicts in the history of the United States.

IN THAT MOMENT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, to commemorate the heroism of the Captain and crew of US Airways Flight 1549, as well as the emergency personnel of the New York fire and police departments, Congresswoman DIANE E. WATSON would like to submit this poem to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This poem is dedicated to the valor and heroism of Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III; First Officer Jeffrey B. Skiles; flight attendants Sheila Dail, Doreen Welsh, and Donna Dent; the fine men and women of the New York fire and police Departments; the Coast Guard; ferry boat captains; and the citizens of New York.

IN THAT MOMENT

In . . .
In that moment . . .
When who lives or dies!
But, to see another sunrise . . .
All in their hand's which lies . . .
All of those most precious lives . . .
Whose loved ones, upon them rely
Who will be left to cry . . .
When high above, up in those blue skies . . .
With just seconds to react . . .
Just moments from the black . . .
With eminent death approaching, the facts . . .

With only a few choices . . .
Listening, to their most inner voices . . .
A lifetime of training . . .
All for this one moment counting . . .
With the time to live or die, so waning
Most precious moments in time which lie . . .

Now remaining . . .
Determining, who lives and dies . . .
With but no room for error . . .
As born, all in this moment such heroes . . .
While, all around them crisis looms . . .
As they must keep their cool . . . as their
fine hearts must swoon . . .

While, against all odds . . . they give to this
our world this jewel . . .
This gift, which will now forever over our
hearts so rule . . .
This moment, when they stood strong . . .
with hearts full . . .

Full of courage and might, to win the day
. . . to win that night . . .
To carry with us until we grow old . . .
As God was with them on that day, in this
miracle on 48th street in so many ways . . .

On A Wings of A Dove, as he helped bring
them down so safe . . .

As City, once again must unite . . .
Police Officers, Firefighters, Citizens, Coast
Guard, Ferry Boat Captains bringing
the light . . .

As the echoes of a past were all heard in
their hearts that night . . .

A Gotham City, with Gotham Hearts . . . as
on this day, all did their part . . .

And what child will be born?
Who might save the world, or upon it such
great things unfurled . . .

Because of that moment!
And what loves will be worn? Given that sec-
ond chance now to now continue on . . .

For only a future knows . . .
From these moments as time will tell us . . .
will show . . .

When in that moment . . . Quiet Heroes so . . .

We would discover, the true meaning of that
word heroes . . . our new lovers . . .

Bless them, bless them all . . .
For each and everyday, our lives on them so
depend so all . . .

For we will long remember . . .
This winter day, all in the embers . . . of our
hearts . . .

When, in the moment of truth . . .
A Magnificent Captain and Crew gave us the
proof . . .

That miracles do come true . . .
And how courage can come shining through . . .

In That Moment . . .

HONORING EASTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY AS A RECIPIENT OF
THE 2008 COMMUNITY ENGAGE-
MENT CLASSIFICATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eastern Michigan University for being selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive its 2008 Community Engagement Classification.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905, is a highly regarded, independent higher education policy and research center. Of the 217 institutions who declared an