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news release

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DESTROYER TO BE NAMED FOR SOUTH TEXAN

(WASHINGTON, D C) - South Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza today expressed his elation with the Navy's selection of the name GONZALEZ for a destroyer currently under construction. Navy Secretary H Lawrence Garrett, III advised the Congressman today that an ARLEIGH BURKE class guided missile destroyer will be named after Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez of Edinburg. "What a fitting tribute to a man who risked and gave his life for the sake of his fellow countrymen," de la Garza said.

Gonzalez, USMC (1946-1968) was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for conspicuous courage and dynamic leadership of his unit during the Viet Nam War. In 1969, Rep de la Garza personally escorted Mrs Dolia Gonzalez to the White House to receive her son's Medal of Honor by then Vice President Spiro Agnew. "Having known the family all these years, I know how proud they are that the spirit and pride of South Texas will soon be sailing the seas of the world," de la Garza said, "We all are."

The USS GONZALEZ is under construction in Bath, Maine, by the Bath Iron Works Corporation and is expected to be delivered to the Navy in March of 1996.