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EXECUTION, BJT,400

TEXAS INMATE EXECUTED FOR 1983 ROBBERY-SLAYING.

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HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS (AP) - CONVICTED KILLER CARLOS DELUNA, SAYING HE HAD NO HATE AND PROFESSING SUPPORT FOR HIS FELLOW DEATH ROW INMATES, WAS EXECUTED EARLY THURSDAY FOR THE 1983 ROBBERY-SLAYING OF A CORPUS CHRISTI WOMAN.

"I WANT TO SAY I HOLD NO GRUDGES, I HATE NOBODY," DELUNA, 27, SAID WHILE STRAPPED TO THE DEATH CHAMBER GURNEY. "I WANT MY FAMILY TO KNOW I LOVE THEM. I WANT TO TELL EVERYONE ON DEATH ROW TO KEEP THE FAITH UP, TO KEEP GOING. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT."

THE LETHAL INJECTION BEGAN AT 12:14 A.M. HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD 10 MINUTES LATER.

DELUNA HAD INSISTED ALL ALONG HE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF WANDA JEAN LOPEZ, 24, WHOSE FINAL WORDS OF TERROR ON FEB. 4, 1983 WERE CAPTURED ON A POLICE EMERGENCY DISPATCHER'S TAPE RECORDING.

THE WOMAN HAD CALLED POLICE FOR HELP AFTER CUSTOMERS TIPPED HER THEY SAW A MAN WITH A KNIFE OUTSIDE THE CONVENIENCE STORE-GAS STATION WHERE SHE WORKED. EYEWITNESSES IDENTIFIED HIM AT HIS TRIAL AS THE KNIFE-WIELDING MAN.

MARY VARDAS, MS. LOPEZ'S MOTHER, SAID SHE HOPED THIS WOULD BE THE TIME DELUNA WOULD DIE. DELUNA CAME WITH 12 HOURS OF EXECUTION IN 1986 BEFORE A FEDERAL JUDGE HALTED THE PROCEDURE.

"I'M GLAD THIS IS OVER WITH," SHE SAID THURSDAY.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE EXECUTION LATE WEDNESDAY WHEN THE JUSTICES VOTED 7-2 TO REJECT AN EMERGENCY REQUEST TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

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SECRET SOURCE: WOULD REVEAL THE NAME OF INFORMANT ITSELF ON REQUEST.

DELUNA HAD BEEN OUT OF PRISON ON PAROLE FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS AFTER SERVING PART OF A THREE-YEAR TERM FOR AUTO THEFT AND ATTEMPTED RAPE WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED FOR THE LOPEZ KILLING; HIDING UNDER A TRUCK NEARBY. HIS CRIMINAL RECORD HAD PROGRESSED FROM PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS TO CAR THEFT AND THEN TO ATTEMPTED RAPE AND FINALLY MURDER.

DELUNA BECAME THE FOURTH TEXAS INMATE THIS YEAR TO BE EXECUTED AND THE 33RD IN THE STATE AND 120TH NATIONALLY SINCE THE SUPREME COURT ALLOWED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TO RESUME IN 1976. THE TEXAS TOTAL IS THE HIGHEST OF ANY STATE.

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