

Thief put to death for stabbing clerk

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE — A convicted car thief with a long history of juvenile offenses was executed early Thursday for the robbery-slaying of a Corpus Christi woman whose pleas for mercy were recorded by a police emergency dispatcher.

Carlos DeLuna, 27, died at 12:24 a.m. after receiving a lethal injection for the 1983 robbery-slaying of Wanda Jean Lopez, 24, a service station clerk.

DeLuna gave a short statement to those present before dying.

"I want to say I hold no grudges. I hate nobody. 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," he said.

The injection was given to DeLuna at 12:14 a.m. He took three deep breaths, then there was no further movement. He was pronounced dead 10 minutes later.

The U.S. Supreme Court, on a 7-2 vote, late Wednesday rejected an emergency request aimed at keeping DeLuna alive until a formal appeal could be filed in his behalf. On Tuesday, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court

of Appeals also refused to block his execution.

Three convicts were executed earlier this year in Texas, bringing to 32 the number of executions in the state since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976. The total is the highest of any state.

Lopez, alerted by customers that a man with a knife was outside the station, was on the phone with police when DeLuna came in for a pack of cigarettes Feb. 4, 1983.

"On the tape, she's talking to the cops. . . And then you heard that scream," said Steve Schwetz, the assistant district attorney who prosecuted DeLuna. "He was just real belligerent. There was just no reason to kill this girl. He didn't know her."

DeLuna, on parole for about six weeks after serving part of a three-year sentence, was arrested after he was found hiding under a truck near the slaying.



DeLUNA: Killer

Hall, V

BY RELICIA JONES
OF THE HOUSTON POST

Craig Washington and Hall have added fire to runoff campaigns for Congress, each other of par racial groups and misre each other's stands on

Washington on Tur Hall has mailed differen literature to different i munities and has mis his stands on several

Hall responded We saying Washington i desperate charges" be ing literature stressin concern to specific co

Hall and Washington off Saturday for the 18 sional District seat van the death of Mickey Le

Hall, a member of i Council, said Washing targeted different can ture to different const

Hall's campaign duced copies of Wash pain literature, som written partially in leaflet displays a pict wife, mother and br other says, "For Cho cy, For Individual Rig

The Hall staffers s written partially in mailed to Hispanic n They say leaflet pict wife, mother and mailed to black

And they say the p was mailed to the

"A candidate i position on ever tion does not c candidate's re

GOP convert enters race for state agriculture chief

Rick Perry accuses incumbent Hightower of using tax money

tower added.

Also seeking the GOP nomination for the post are Ken Boatwright of Hamilton, who once directed the state agriculture department's seed and grain warehouse division, and Gene Duke, a farmer and rancher from Brownfield.

Perry said the state needs an agriculture commissioner like himself who has extensive background in ranching and farming rather than a politician like Hightower.

Perry charged that instead of serving agriculture interests the

blican
the race
missioner
accusing

ca. 12/7/88

K.B. file