

Inmate executed at Walls

By ANNE MICHAUD
The Huntsville Item

Carlos Deluna used his last minutes of life to tell his family he loved them.

Deluna, 27, was executed by lethal injection shortly after midnight this morning. His last words were to his family and friends of six years on Death Row.

"I want to say that I hold no grudges against nobody. I hate nobody. I love my family. And I want to tell everyone on death row to keep the faith, keep going, everything will be alright," he said.

The first injection began at 12:14 a.m. He was declared dead at 12:24.

While at the "death house" in Huntsville's Walls Unit awaiting his execution Wednesday, Deluna visited with his sisters, Rosemary DeLuna and Vicky Guterriez; his friend, Brad Rhoton; Daniel and Maria Conejo, his half-brother and sister-in-law;

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FROM THE FRONT

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and Maria Arrandondo, his half-sister.

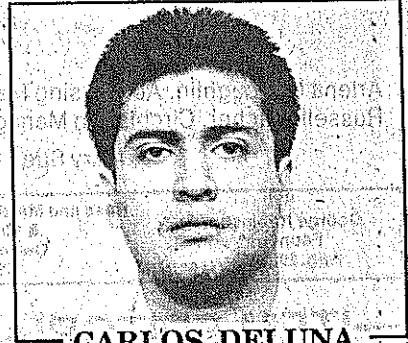
After being refused by state and federal courts, DeLuna filed a motion to the United States Supreme Court Wednesday morning requesting a stay of execution. Again he was refused.

DeLuna is a native of Nueces

County and he told TDC officials he worked at an electrician there before he was imprisoned in 1983.

DeLuna was convicted of stabbing a Corpus Christi service station clerk to death after robbing the station on Feb. 4, 1983. Officers who arrested him minutes after 24-year-old Wanda Jean Lopez minutes phoned police and attempted to describe the man who robbed her.

Lopez' final words, as recorded by the Corpus Christi Police Department while the victim was reporting the robbery, were: "You



CARLOS DELUNA

want it (money). I'll give it to you. I'll give it to you. I'm not going to do nothing to you. Please."