

P.O. BOX 796395  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75379-6395

December 12, 1992

Judge William Wayne Justice  
U. S. District Court  
Federal Courthouse  
Tyler, Texas 75702

Re: Dallas Morning News coverage of the RUIZ settlement.

Dear Judge Justice:

You were quoted in the Dallas Morning News this date as characterizing Ruiz and the other prisoners who brought the suit as "brave" men. If this is a misquote, please disregard the remainder of this letter.

When we as a society have been reduced to the point where United States District Judges characterize thieves, thugs, murderers and stickup men as "brave" men, when the moral compass of even our most respected institutions like the courts has gone haywire, then the feral condition of many parts of our cities and towns, the cheapening to the point of triviality of human life, the horrible suffering especially of those that have the least in life, the amoral ambience which engulfs our young -- all this is easily explained.

When I read your glowing praise of these, some of society's worst leaches and predators, when I saw that you actually used a word usually reserved for our war heroes and for other citizens whose character and love of fellow man in the face of monumental adversity transcends even their own instinct for life itself, whose selflessness is the foundation upon which this nation was built, I was repulsed. I wonder what sort of reference points you use to determine what bravery is and who qualifies to be called brave. I wonder what sort of personal experiences you have had knowing brave people, seeing brave people, forming an opinion about bravery and what it means.

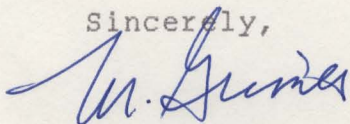
My view of the men you so revere is that they are vipers, opportunists who have no respect for their fellow man or for their country, who prey on the helpless and when they get caught they go straight to plan "B", sidwinding, angling, doing whatever it takes to beat the rap and the system. Unlike the vast majority of Americans, some from disadvantage and some not, who practice respect for their fellow man,

these men excuse themselves from even the most rudimentary requirements of human decency and when the bill comes due, like innocent victims they cry foul. Living a life of rank contempt for the law, they adapt themselves to twisting and turning the law to defeat its purpose. Often, they succeed -- but not without help from social engineers in Ivory towers who never had to work the night shift at an inner city 7-11. These are your heros? These are brave men?

My idea of bravery is different. A single mother who has to work the night shift and walk dangerous streets to earn a living for her children -- she is brave. A young man who wears his country's uniform knowing he might die in it -- he is brave. A man who intervenes to stop an attack on another -- he is brave. A couple who defend their home and their children against a siege of criminality -- they are brave.

How you can equate the slitherings of common criminals with bravery is far beyond me. Maybe it explains your mindset in deciding this case; maybe it explains why to some people the innocent lives that have been sacrificed at the altar of effete social engineering are just so much overhead in the grand scheme of things.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Grimes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Grimes