



WALLER COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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JUDGE GIVES 75 YEAR SENTENCE FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT CHARGE

HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS, October 6, 2025 – Miguel Veras Gonzalez, 67, of Hempstead, was sentenced after a hearing on Monday, October 6, 2025 to 75 years in prison. On July 18, 2025, a Waller County jury found Gonzalez guilty of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Gary W. Chaney presided over the trial; the Defendant elected for punishment to the Court. Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Brent A. Huffman and Lauren Haevischer represented the State at trial, and Houston-area attorneys Robert Cardenas and Jose Mata represented the Defendant.

Due to Gonzalez's extensive criminal history, his potential punishment range was increased from the normal 2-20 years in prison for Aggravated Assault to a habitual offender punishment range of 25-99 years or life, in prison. The charged offense was from a March 7, 2022 incident. The offense was investigated by the Waller County Sheriff's Office.

At trial, the victim in the case testified to being shot by the Defendant, then left for dead. At the time of the shooting, the victim was the employee of the Defendant. Multiple witnesses testified for the State which included testimony related to the victim's injuries, the immediate response by law enforcement, and the apprehension of the Defendant after he fled the scene and hid in his home. Law enforcement also testified to finding the weapon suspected of being used in the offense that had been hidden by the Defendant.

In closing, Huffman rebuked the defense's argument that the victim was deserving of his fate, stating that blaming a victim for crimes committed against them "only adds insult to injury", imploring the jury to show by their verdict that every victim matters in Waller County. After approximately twenty-five minutes of deliberation, the jury found the Defendant guilty of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. The case was reset to October 6, 2025 for a separate punishment hearing before Judge Chaney.

At punishment, both parties presented witnesses. Evidence proven by the State at punishment included two prior penitentiary trips; one in Florida for Murder and one in Harris County, Texas for Criminally Negligent Homicide of the Defendant's wife, whose body was discovered buried in a make-shift grave in her backyard. Haevischer summarized the defendant's life as one filled with death and destruction.

After the sentence, Waller County Criminal District Attorney Sean Whittmore commented on the case. "The jury in this case did an extraordinary job in listening to the evidence and navigating through the fog to reach a quick and just outcome. The jurors were not swayed by the Defense's attacks on the victim who readily admitted his own mistakes in the past. The Judge's sentence sends a message to this community that Waller County does not stand for this type of violence, that victims of violent crime will receive the justice they deserve, and that every victim counts."