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HEADLINE: RESEARCHERS WANT CONNALLY BULLET PIECES

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BODY:

The FBI is studying a request that bullet fragments be removed from the wrist of the late John Connally in an effort to test the Warren Commission conclusion that President John F. Kennedy and Connally were shot by a lone gunman.

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The Justice Department said the request made by research groups to scientifically analyze the fragments in Connally's wrist have been referred to the Dallas FBI field office, according to Caroline Aronovitz, a department spokeswoman. Connally died Tuesday in Houston of lung disease.

The groups - the Washington-based Assassination Archives and Research Center, and the JFK Assassination Information Center in Dallas - have asked the Justice Department, Texas authorities and the Connally family to authorize a scientific analysis of bullet fragments lodged in the former Texas governor's body when he was shot while riding in the presidential limousine with President John F. Kennedy in Dallas 30 years ago.

At issue is whether those fragments came from the same, so-called "magic," bullet that allegedly first entered Kennedy's back and exited through his throat before ricocheting through Connally's chest, wrist and leg, eventually landing on a stretcher.

COLUMN: NATIONAL BRIEFS