

By: González of El Paso

H.R. No. 262

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas has been a  
2 leader in the fight for social justice for members of the LGBTQIA+  
3 communities in Texas, and his efforts have made a positive  
4 difference in numerous lives; and

5           WHEREAS, Since 2015, Reverend Cazares-Thomas has been the  
6 senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, which is a member of  
7 the United Church of Christ and one of the largest predominately  
8 LGBTQIA+ churches in the nation; since 1981, he has been a member of  
9 Metropolitan Community Churches, a movement made up of LGBTQIA+  
10 affirming congregations, and he previously served as senior pastor  
11 of MCC churches in Bournemouth, England, and Los Angeles,  
12 California; and

13           WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Reverend Cazares-Thomas has  
14 spoken out against the bigotry that many religious organizations  
15 express toward members of the LGBTQIA+ communities; in addition, he  
16 has played a vital role in establishing programs for unhoused  
17 people, night and day shelters, safe sex initiatives, and LGBTQ  
18 youth services, and he helped found a drop-in counseling center  
19 during the AIDS pandemic; and

20           WHEREAS, A native of Bournemouth, Reverend Cazares-Thomas  
21 attended St. John's Theological College, La Saint Union, and King  
22 Alfred's College, and he earned his doctorate of ministry from San  
23 Francisco Theological Seminary in 2009; he has chaired the Ordained  
24 Ministries European District board and served as a member of the

1 Elder's Task Force on Education, the European District Committee,  
2 and the board of Samaritan College, among other leadership roles;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Cazares-Thomas is a recipient of many  
5 honors, including the 2018 Justice Seeker of the Year Award from the  
6 Dallas Peace and Justice Center, the 2017 Shalom Award from the  
7 Temple Shalom Brotherhood, the 2017 Partners for Equality Award  
8 from Lambda Legal, the 2016 Crystal Hope Award from AIDS Interfaith  
9 Network, the 2012 Leadership Award from California Faith for  
10 Equality, and the 2010 Harvey Milk Award; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his myriad endeavors, Reverend  
12 Cazares-Thomas has helped further inclusion and equality in the  
13 Lone Star State, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many  
14 noteworthy accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
16 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend the Reverend  
17 Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas for his service to the LGBTQIA+  
18 communities of Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
19 continued success in his important work; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Reverend Cazares-Thomas as an expression of high  
22 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.