

By: Romero, Jr.

H.R. No. 271

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and
2 meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends
3 of Louis Gilbert Ayala of Fort Worth, who passed away on January 14,
4 2021, at the age of 90; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Maria and Eutimio Ayala, Louis Ayala was
6 born in Hartford City, Indiana, on July 21, 1930, and he grew up in
7 Fort Worth with the companionship of 13 siblings, Joe, Stanley,
8 Anne, Isabel, Dolores, Carmen, Michael, Rosie, Cora, Juanita,
9 Teresa, John, and Jesse; possessed of an entrepreneurial spirit
10 from an early age, he began shining shoes outside of local
11 businesses when he was just eight years old, and he was later hired
12 to shine shoes at a neighborhood barber shop; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Ayala enrolled in barber school when he turned
14 14, and at age 15, he began a career as a professional barber that
15 would span 75 years; in 1958, he opened his own shop, which he
16 continued to operate until 2019, when he leased it to other barbers
17 and joined his wife at her salon; known for his generosity,
18 kindness, and humor, he maintained a clientele of loyal customers,
19 with generations of families coming to him for haircuts as well as
20 for conversation and camaraderie; additionally, his skillful work
21 earned him the attention of a film production company, and he was a
22 consultant and stylist for period films such as *JFK* and *Born on the*
23 *Fourth of July*; in 2020, he was recognized by the Texas Department
24 of Licensing and Regulation as the oldest active barber in the

1 state, and the Fort Worth City Council honored him for his 75 years
2 of service; and

3 WHEREAS, An engaged citizen, Mr. Ayala volunteered his time
4 by cutting hair at area nursing homes; he was also a longtime
5 advocate for the advancement of the Hispanic and North Side
6 communities; an avid golfer, he served on the City of Fort Worth
7 Golf Advisory Committee, where his contributions led to the
8 redevelopment of Rockwood Golf Course; and

9 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Ayala enjoyed the love and
10 support of his wife, Delia, with whom he shared a rewarding union of
11 five decades; he took great pride in his children, Emily, Louis,
12 Sam, Melissa Ann, Maria Melissa, Cecilia, and the late Albert E.
13 Ayala, and he was further blessed with 16 grandchildren and
14 numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, While the death of Louis Ayala brings immeasurable
16 sorrow to his loved ones, he leaves behind a legacy that will long
17 be treasured by those who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Louis Gilbert Ayala
20 and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Louis
25 Ayala.