

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 321

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their
2 memories of Manuel Salvador Vela of San Antonio, who died on
3 February 1, 2021, at the age of 100; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Kenedy on March 28, 1920, to Salvador and
5 Rufina Vela, Manuel Vela grew up with three siblings, Isaac, Lydia,
6 and Anais; he was the proud father of two daughters, Rachel Brinlee
7 and Cynthia Vela York, and a son, the late Roland Vela, and later in
8 life, he was pleased to welcome his grandchildren and
9 great-grandchildren into his family; and

10 WHEREAS, After starting his career with the San Antonio Fire
11 Department in 1943, Mr. Vela answered his nation's call to duty and
12 served as a gunner with the U.S. Navy in the Bering Sea during World
13 War II; he returned to San Antonio in 1946 and resumed his career
14 with the fire department, earning his associate degree in fire
15 science from San Antonio College and serving as an engineer,
16 lieutenant, and captain before retiring as a fire inspector in
17 1983; and

18 WHEREAS, Strong-willed and energetic, Mr. Vela worked out at
19 the YMCA well into his 90s, and he delighted in dancing on the
20 weekends; he remained proud of his military service, and in 2012, he
21 was privileged to join an Honor Flight of World War II veterans to
22 Washington, D.C.; known affectionately as "Cap" to his fellow San
23 Antonio firefighters, he was honored in 2020 as the department's
24 oldest retired member; and

1 WHEREAS, Manuel Vela lived a rich and purposeful life devoted
2 to his family, his nation, and his community, and he leaves behind a
3 legacy of service that will continue to inspire all those who knew
4 and loved him; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Manuel Salvador
7 Vela and extend sincere condolences to his relatives and to his many
8 friends; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Manuel
12 Vela.