

By: Menéndez

S.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, San Antonio lost an admired activist, artist, and
2 cultural historian with the passing of Ramon Vasquez y Sanchez on
3 May 8, 2023, at the age of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Olivia Sanchez and Ramon Vasquez, Ramon
5 Vasquez y Sanchez was born on the city's Westside on May 6, 1940; he
6 attended San Antonio College and joined the staff of the Bexar
7 County Archives to focus on the preservation of Mexican American
8 history; in addition, he was a member of the Bexar County Historical
9 Commission; he also gained increasing recognition as an artist,
10 illustrating the Bexar County coat of arms and publishing work in
11 newspapers and other media; his acclaimed paintings of the early
12 Indian Missions centered on the ordinary people and Mexican heroes
13 generally left out of historical narratives, and his subjects
14 included daily life in the barrio; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez y Sanchez became a leader in the Chicano
16 rights movement; he wrote the preamble for the establishment of the
17 Raza Unida Party, provided graphic designs, and served as vice
18 chair and gubernatorial campaign manager; as chair of the Bilingual
19 Bicultural Coalition on Mass Media, he oversaw suits against the
20 Federal Communications Commission that led to greater Mexican
21 American representation among journalists; he was a fierce advocate
22 for equity in city arts funding, and he was instrumental in
23 establishing Centro Cultural Aztlan and ran its visual arts program
24 for decades; in that role, he encouraged other artists, created a

1 sense of community, and popularized public Día de los Muertos
2 commemorations; he also fought for the inclusion of Mexican
3 American and Tejano stories in the Alamo narrative and organized
4 the first "Olvidate del Alamo" and "Las Mujeres del Alamo" art
5 exhibits; tenacious and outspoken, he nevertheless expressed his
6 strong viewpoints with grace, courtesy, and logic; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. Vasquez y Sanchez helped reorganize the
8 Mission Descendant Families of Northeastern Mexico and South Texas
9 under the umbrella of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation; he served
10 as a tribal council member for over three decades; moreover, he
11 formed the nonprofit group American Indians in Texas at the Spanish
12 Colonial Missions and united with other activists to secure the
13 return of over 150 ancestral remains to Mission San Juan
14 Capistrano; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez y Sanchez married Gloria Camarillo in
16 1962, and they became the parents of three children, Ramon Juan
17 Vasquez, Edna Marie Vasquez, and Marisol Vasquez; he and his second
18 wife, Maria Magdalena Gonzales, had one son, Javier Ramon Vasquez;
19 following her passing, he was fortunate enough to find love again,
20 and in 2013, he wed Maria Chavez, who survives him, along with his
21 children and his 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Ramon Vasquez y Sanchez
23 sought to root out injustice and illuminate the richness of Mexican
24 American heritage, and although he will be deeply missed by all who
25 were privileged to know him, they will treasure their memories of
26 his wisdom, compassion, and wry sense of humor; now, therefore, be
27 it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 1st
2 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Ramon Vasquez y
3 Sanchez and extend sincere condolences to his family, to his many
4 friends, and to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
7 day, it do so in memory of Ramon Vasquez y Sanchez.