

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 71

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former Texas state senator Eddie Lucio Jr. has been
2 named the 2023 recipient of the Defender of Life Award by the
3 St. John Paul II Life Center; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected to the Legislature in 1986, Eduardo
5 Andres Lucio Jr. served two terms in the Texas House of
6 Representatives before winning his Senate seat in 1990; he served
7 in numerous leadership roles over the course of his 16 consecutive
8 terms in the Senate, including chair of the Intergovernmental
9 Relations and International Relations and Trade Committees and vice
10 chair of the Education Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Lucio improved access to higher education in the
12 Rio Grande Valley, authoring legislation to create such
13 institutions as South Texas College and The University of Texas at
14 Brownsville, which was a legacy institution to UTRGV; he was also
15 instrumental in the establishment of the Regional Academic Health
16 Center, a precursor of the UTRGV School of Medicine; and

17 WHEREAS, Dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of
18 children, Mr. Lucio secured passage of legislation expanding
19 access to school nutrition programs and requiring three-point lap
20 and shoulder belts on new school buses; moreover, he has been a
21 staunch advocate of health care for children with disabilities and
22 of equity in public schools; his love for children extends to those
23 still in the womb, whom he sees as the most helpless and innocent,
24 deserving of the full protection of the law; and

1 WHEREAS, During his tenure on the Finance Committee,
2 Mr. Lucio worked tirelessly to advance economic development in
3 South Texas by securing funding for infrastructure; his efforts
4 contributed to the designation of the first interstate highways in
5 the Rio Grande Valley; in addition, he has been a champion of
6 veterans issues and of the ranchlands of the Coastal Bend; the
7 Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas presented him with
8 its Legislative Hero Award in recognition of his endeavors in
9 behalf of families of fallen police officers; he was further
10 recognized with the naming of Senator Eddie A. Lucio Jr. Middle
11 School in Brownsville in his honor; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Lucio's career in public service was informed by
13 his strong Catholic upbringing in the Bougainvillea neighborhood, a
14 subdivision of the Brownsville Housing Authority; he completed his
15 bachelor's degree in education at Pan American University, a
16 predecessor of UTRGV, and worked in the Brownsville Independent
17 School District; at the age of 25, he became Cameron County
18 treasurer, and he later served as a county commissioner; and

19 WHEREAS, Eddie Lucio has greatly benefited his fellow Texans
20 through his wide-ranging contributions, and he is richly deserving
21 of this prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 4th
23 Called Session, hereby congratulate the Honorable Eddie
24 Lucio Jr. on his receipt of the 2023 Defender of Life Award from the
25 St. John Paul II Life Center and extend to him sincere best wishes
26 for the future; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Lucio as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 Senate.