

By: Zwiener

H.R. No. 645

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Ruben Garza retired as executive director of the  
2 Southside Community Center in 2022, drawing to a close more than  
3 three and a half decades of exemplary service to people in need in  
4 San Marcos and Hays County; and

5           WHEREAS, A native of McAllen, Ruben Garza earned his  
6 bachelor's degree in political science from Southwest Texas State  
7 University, and immediately after graduating, he joined the staff  
8 of State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Garza served as executive director of the  
10 Southside Community Center, a nonprofit affiliate of the United  
11 Methodist Church, for 36 years; the center seeks to improve the  
12 living conditions and personal dignity of those in need in Hays  
13 County through the delivery of such services as food and  
14 transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness,  
15 after-school activities for young people, and transportation to  
16 local grocery stores; under Mr. Garza's leadership, the center has  
17 sponsored summer volunteers from around the country who have worked  
18 to improve the homes of residents who are low-income, elderly, or  
19 disabled, and more than 800 homes have been upgraded over 25 years;  
20 he also oversaw the development of a retirement center and  
21 facilitated the creation of affordable senior housing; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Garza served as the first Hispanic president of  
23 the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District and as a  
24 founding member of the San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; in

1 addition, he has been a member of the Rotary Club, the San Marcos  
2 Youth Service Bureau, and the Blanco River Regional Recovery Group,  
3 and he is an active congregant of First United Methodist Church; and

4 WHEREAS, Ruben Garza's skill, expertise, and dedication to  
5 serving others have greatly benefited the people of San Marcos and  
6 Hays County, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a career well  
7 spent; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Ruben Garza on his retirement from  
10 the Southside Community Center and extend to him sincere best  
11 wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for Mr. Garza as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
14 House of Representatives.