

By: LaMantia

S.R. No. 409

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Brownsville lost an esteemed
2 community leader with the passing of former mayor Enrique C.
3 González on March 24, 2023, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Maria and Emilio González, Henry González
5 was born in San Benito on November 29, 1935, and he grew up with the
6 companionship of seven siblings, Reynaldo, Gloria, Maria, Delia,
7 Emiliano, Carlos, and Carmen; in his youth, he learned the value of
8 hard work through part-time jobs on his family's farm; he graduated
9 in 1954 from Saint Joseph Academy, where he played on the football
10 and basketball teams, and he went on to earn a degree in business
11 marketing from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in
12 1958; he was a member of the Corps of Cadets in the C-Field
13 Artillery outfit during his years in College Station; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. González worked in the cotton industry and
15 traveled across the U.S. before joining the Brownsville Independent
16 School District in 1962; over the course of his 13-year tenure, he
17 served as an educator and later as the district's director of
18 transportation and supplies; he became a trustee on the school
19 board in 1975, and his achievements in that role included serving as
20 president, securing passage of bond proposals, and guiding the
21 construction of new schools; he later embarked on a rewarding
22 career with the Oyster Bar restaurant, and he played an
23 instrumental role in managing its Rio Grande Valley expansion as
24 well as its location on Paredes Line Road; and

1 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Mr. González returned to public
2 office, first winning election as a Brownsville city commissioner
3 and later as mayor, serving in each role for five years; under his
4 able leadership, the city acquired a new city hall facility,
5 completed construction of the Veterans International Bridge at Los
6 Tomates, and established a Sister City relationship with Matamoros;
7 he also guided Brownsville through a period of economic growth, and
8 he played an instrumental role in promoting the Make a Difference
9 Day community cleanup initiative; and

10 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. González benefited from
11 the love and support of his wife, Mary Lou, with whom he shared a
12 fulfilling marriage that spanned 65 years; he took great pride in
13 his children, Henry, Cissie, Lettie, Magda, and Justo, and over the
14 years, his treasured family grew to include six grandchildren and
15 four great-grandchildren; throughout his life, he found strength in
16 his Catholic faith; and

17 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, a hard-working public servant,
18 and an accomplished business leader, Henry González lived a rich
19 and purposeful life, and he leaves behind a record of service that
20 his loved ones can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
22 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Enrique C. González and extend
23 heartfelt sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
26 day, it do so in memory of Henry González.