

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 548

In Memory
of
Elena Peña Gallego

WHEREAS, Elena Peña Gallego, an esteemed member of the Alpine community and a friend to many, passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, The former Elena Peña was born to Martín Peña and Cecilia Paredes Peña on August 18, 1928, in Fort Stockton, and she grew up with the companionship of three siblings, Mary, Irene, and Pete; at the age of 16, she moved to Alpine to attend Sul Ross State Teachers College, and two years later, she was joined in matrimony to Pete A. Gallego, with whom she shared a fulfilling union that spanned more than six decades until his passing in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gallego left college to take a position as a teacher at a rural school near Chinati Peak, and upon her marriage, she worked in the Gallego family's restaurant, then known as the Green Café; she later became the first Mexican American bookkeeper at First National Bank in Alpine before joining the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, where she took great satisfaction in helping people to meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, Mrs. Gallego helped to establish and operate Our Lady of Peace Credit Union, now Alpine Community Credit Union, in order to meet the financial needs of Mexican Americans who faced discrimination by area banks; moreover, she was very involved in local politics and served as campaign strategist for her husband, who served five terms as a trustee of the Alpine Independent School District, and the family's restaurant became a frequent stopping place for Democratic candidates in the West Texas area; in 2019, she received an Honorary Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sul Ross State University and the Texas State University System Board of Regents, the first time such a degree had been awarded; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gallego took great pride in her four children, Imelda, Rebecca, Pete, and Robert, and she instilled in them the value of education; with the passing years, she had the pleasure of seeing her family grow to include five grandchildren, Imelda, María, Briana, Cristina, and Nicolás, as well as a great-granddaughter, Sonia; and

WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to her family and her community, Elena Peña Gallego made a meaningful difference in the lives of her loved ones and fellow citizens alike, and those who were privileged to share in her love and affection will forever hold her close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Elena Peña Gallego and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elena Peña Gallego.

Blanco

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 11, 2023, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate