

By: Blanco

S.R. No. 548

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Active in her community, Mrs. Gallego helped to
19 establish and operate Our Lady of Peace Credit Union, now Alpine
20 Community Credit Union, in order to meet the financial needs of
21 Mexican Americans who faced discrimination by area banks; moreover,
22 she was very involved in local politics and served as campaign
23 strategist for her husband, who served five terms as a trustee of
24 the Alpine Independent School District, and the family's restaurant

1 became a frequent stopping place for Democratic candidates in the
2 West Texas area; in 2019, she received an Honorary Bachelor of Arts
3 Degree from Sul Ross State University and the Texas State
4 University System Board of Regents, the first time such a degree had
5 been awarded; and

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

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

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

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