

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Armando de Armas for his successful endeavor to forge a new life in our great state; and

WHEREAS, Armando is originally from Puerto Padre, province of Las Tunas, Cuba; he learned the art of cigar making and worked in his father's "tabacalera" until Fidel Castro nationalized the factory in 1963; he made cigars for Casadori, Cerema, Nacional, Breva, and other companies until he was drafted into the military; and

WHEREAS, After serving three years in the Cuban military, he endured many struggles in his homeland under the Communist Castro regime; in 1973, he made an unsuccessful attempt to leave Cuba for the United States, traveling the precarious waters in a small boat with six other fellow Cubans; the boat filled with water, and he and his companions made it only to the Bahamas; from there, they were sent back to Cuba and to prison; and

WHEREAS, Finally, to his great joy, Armando and his wife were granted visas and political asylum in the United States in 2001; and

WHEREAS, After spending time with his sister in Orlando, Florida, Armando moved to Austin under the auspices of Caritas of Austin, one of Travis County's largest nongovernmental sources of assistance to those in great need; and

WHEREAS, Through help from the Caritas community integration program for refugees, Armando has been able to put to use his exceptional skills as a cigar roller by serving as an employee with the Bobalu Cigar Company; the business, located at 509 East 6th Street in Austin, produces hand-rolled cigars, and for the past two years, Armando has worked as a master roller; and

WHEREAS, Armando de Armas has created a new life for himself in the capital city of our state and his is truly an inspirational story of struggle and success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby welcome Armando de Armas to our state and country and extend best wishes to him for the future; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on September 23, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate