

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 553

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Senior U.S. District Judge H. F. "Hippo" Garcia, the  
2 first Mexican American named a federal judge in the Western  
3 District of Texas, died on January 16, 2002, at the age of 76, and  
4 with his death this nation lost a distinguished jurist whose wisdom  
5 and dedication to the cause of justice inspired a great many people;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Judge Garcia was born in San Antonio on December 4,  
8 1925, not far from the courthouse where he would preside as judge  
9 for more than two decades; he graduated from Brackenridge High  
10 School in 1943 and immediately thereafter answered his country's  
11 call to arms, serving with the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Division in  
12 Germany during World War II; and

13           WHEREAS, On his return to civilian life, he attended St.  
14 Mary's University, earning his undergraduate degree in 1949 and his  
15 law degree in 1951; his alma mater would later recognize him as the  
16 1980 Distinguished Law Graduate, and last year the college  
17 announced the creation of the Judge H. F. "Hippo" Garcia Memorial  
18 Scholarship to honor his countless contributions to his profession,  
19 community, and school; and

20           WHEREAS, While still a student, Judge Garcia began working as  
21 a deputy district clerk for Bexar County, and in 1952, diploma in  
22 hand, he launched his career as an assistant district attorney,  
23 serving under four Bexar County district attorneys over the next 12  
24 years; following his election to public office in 1964, he served as

1 the judge of Bexar County Court-at-Law No. 2 until the mid-1970s,  
2 when he won election to the 144th District Court; his exemplary  
3 record on the bench was soon recognized by President Jimmy Carter,  
4 who nominated him to the federal bench in 1980, and following his  
5 confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he served as a U.S. district judge  
6 for the Western District until his death in 2002; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the course of his extraordinary life, Judge  
8 Garcia blazed new trails for Americans of Hispanic descent and  
9 brought incomparable integrity, fairness, and intelligence to his  
10 courtroom; he surmounted great obstacles to reach one of the  
11 highest summits in his profession, transforming himself from a  
12 young teenager who spoke no English on entering high school into a  
13 revered jurist who presided over many of the Southwest's most  
14 important civil and criminal cases; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable H. F.  
17 "Hippo" Garcia and extend profound sympathy to the members of his  
18 family: to his sister, Olga Garcia Rodriguez; to his brothers,  
19 Henry Garcia and Arthur Garcia; to his nieces and nephews; and to  
20 his many other friends and relatives; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House  
23 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in the memory of  
24 Senior U.S. District Judge H. F. "Hippo" Garcia.