

By: Luna

H.R. No. 580

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi earned
2 nationwide renown as a humanitarian and civil rights advocate; and

3 WHEREAS, A graduate of The University of Texas Medical Branch
4 at Galveston, this proud patriot joined the United States Army
5 during World War II, immediately after completing his surgical
6 internship; he attained the rank of major in the Medical Corps and
7 earned a Bronze Star with six battle stars for his valorous service;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Following his military discharge, Dr. Garcia opened
10 a medical practice in Corpus Christi, where he often provided free
11 medical care to those who could not afford to pay, and saw the
12 effects of discrimination against Mexican Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, This truly notable Texan established the American
14 GI Forum, an organization composed primarily of veterans and
15 dedicated to securing equal rights for American Latinos, and
16 throughout his life, he worked for such causes as bilingual
17 education, school desegregation, job creation, and housing; and

18 WHEREAS, The American GI Forum today continues to reflect
19 this remarkable humanitarian's deep commitment to treating others
20 with dignity and to working within the system to effect change; and

21 WHEREAS, Long active in politics on the state and national
22 levels, Dr. Garcia was named by President Lyndon B. Johnson as a
23 member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity and
24 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and as a delegate to the United

1 Nations, and President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential
2 Medal of Freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, Beloved by the people of Corpus Christi, "Dr.
4 Hector" was accorded many well-deserved accolades, including
5 having a city park, a post office, and Memorial Medical Center's
6 indigent health clinic named for him; in addition, he received the
7 first honorary doctorate conferred by Texas A&M University--Corpus
8 Christi, which also erected a statue of him and dedicated a plaza on
9 campus in his honor; in 1990, he was further lauded for his
10 exceptional endeavors by Pope John Paul II; and

11 WHEREAS, A man of tremendous decency and compassion, Dr.
12 Garcia devoted his life to the service of others, and through his
13 unrelenting efforts the country he cherished achieved a fuller
14 realization of its highest ideals; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Hector P. Garcia
17 for his immeasurable contributions as a physician and as a leader in
18 the struggle to guarantee civil rights for all Americans.