

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 639

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is proud to  
2 congratulate Humberto "Bert" Aguirre of Del Rio on his receipt of a  
3 Dr. Hector P. Garcia/American G.I. Forum Founders Award; and

4           WHEREAS, Established by Dr. Garcia in 1948, the American G.I.  
5 Forum (AGIF) initially fought for adequate health care for Hispanic  
6 veterans, though its expanded focus came to encompass education,  
7 civil rights, and freedom for all Americans; and

8           WHEREAS, The prestigious Founders Award pays tribute to Mr.  
9 Aguirre's extraordinary commitment to the AGIF and his community;  
10 he is the first Texan to be honored since the award was created 22  
11 years ago; and

12           WHEREAS, This highly esteemed gentleman was nominated by the  
13 Coastal Bend Area-Women's AGIF of Corpus Christi and the Private  
14 Felix Longoria Chapter AGIF; a letter in support of his nomination  
15 was submitted by Patti Maldonado, a teacher from the Del Rio High  
16 School Learning Center, who cited Mr. Aguirre's exceptional  
17 volunteer work with the center's patriotism project; in addition to  
18 assisting students in contacting Del Rio area Hispanic veterans for  
19 interviews, he helped the students travel to Washington, D.C., when  
20 their project won them the opportunity to visit the nation's  
21 capital; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Aguirre was 16 when he heard for the first time  
23 the dynamic Dr. Garcia, whose message about the importance of  
24 securing civil rights and educational opportunity for Mexican

1 Americans deeply impressed the teenager and gave him a new outlook  
2 on life; he went on to graduate from San Felipe High School and  
3 served in the Korean War as a member of the United States Air Force  
4 from 1950 to 1953; afterward he earned a bachelor's degree from Sul  
5 Ross State University and began a doctoral program in political  
6 science; and

7 WHEREAS, Later, while an administrator with the Texas  
8 Education Agency, Mr. Aguirre was appointed to the U.S.-Mexican  
9 Border Commission by President Lyndon B. Johnson; during the  
10 administration of President Richard Nixon he served as Region 5  
11 director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, with responsibility  
12 for Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico; he  
13 subsequently held the office of vice president at St. Edward's  
14 University until his retirement in 1978; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his involvement with the AGIF, which  
16 he has twice served as state commander, Mr. Aguirre is presently  
17 active with the Laughlin Air Force Base restoration advisory board,  
18 the San Felipe/Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District,  
19 Rotary International, the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, the First  
20 United Methodist Church Chorale, and his family's floral design  
21 business; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Bert Aguirre has sought to put  
23 into practice Dr. Garcia's precept, "Education is our freedom, and  
24 freedom should be everybody's business"; Mr. Aguirre's exemplary  
25 efforts have helped to advance the education of countless  
26 individuals, and it is a pleasure indeed to salute this outstanding  
27 Texan for his unwavering dedication to his community, his state,

1 and his country; now, therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
3 Legislature hereby congratulate Humberto "Bert" Aguirre on his  
4 receipt of a Dr. Hector P. Garcia/American G.I. Forum Founders  
5 Award and extend to him warmest wishes for continued success and  
6 happiness; and, be it further

7           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for Mr. Aguirre as an expression of high regard by the  
9 Texas House of Representatives.