

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 1256

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Johnny N. Mata of Houston has long rendered
2 exceptional service to the Latino community in Texas and to the
3 cause of social justice; and

4 WHEREAS, Born May 6, 1937, Mr. Mata grew up in Houston's East
5 End and attended Austin High School; he later served his country as
6 a member of the United States Army, during which time he was posted
7 in Germany; while overseas, he made the most of the opportunity to
8 explore a variety of European cultures; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Mata returned to Houston following his
10 discharge, and in 1968 he joined the staff of the Gulf Coast
11 Community Services Association; possessing an inexhaustible energy
12 and an unflagging desire to help those struggling to make a better
13 life for themselves, he proved an invaluable asset to the agency and
14 remained there for 32 years until his retirement in June 2000; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Mata's commitment to a life of service has
16 further borne fruit in the creation of the Latino Learning Center,
17 Inc., a nonprofit organization that he cofounded in 1979 and that
18 provides low-income clients in the Houston area with vocational
19 training and other vital assistance; and

20 WHEREAS, From the time he was a boy stepping forward to
21 confront a school bully, Johnny Mata has also raised his voice
22 repeatedly and unhesitatingly against prejudice and injustice; for
23 the past 35 years, he has addressed those issues as a leader in the
24 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); currently

1 director of media and communications for LULAC District VIII in the
2 Houston area, he has served two terms as Texas state director, two
3 terms as state deputy director, and six terms as director of two
4 local LULAC districts; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Mata has spoken out forcefully
6 about such matters as the deaths of Latino detainees in police
7 custody, the lack of Latino representation on grand juries, and
8 incendiary ethnic remarks by both local and national figures; a
9 well-known and highly regarded community leader, he has spurred
10 favorable action on specific concerns from both owners of a local
11 professional sports team and the White House; and

12 WHEREAS, Through his productive professional career and his
13 spirited, unflagging advocacy, Johnny Mata has aided countless
14 individuals and contributed immeasurably to building a stronger,
15 more just society; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Johnny N. Mata for his inspiring service
18 in behalf of LULAC and the people of Houston and extend to him
19 sincere appreciation for his steadfast commitment to securing a
20 brighter future for residents of the Lone Star State; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Mata as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.