

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 1621

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Arnolando F. Benavides has served the citizens of
2 Edinburg as a member of the Edinburg City Council and as mayor pro
3 tempore with great integrity and foresight, helping to usher in a
4 period of unprecedented economic growth, improved educational
5 opportunities, new infrastructure projects, and long-awaited
6 family entertainment facilities; and

7 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan has helped bring two
8 state-of-the-art power plants, valued at more than half a billion
9 dollars, to the city of Edinburg, increasing the amount of
10 on-demand electrical power available to the entire region; each
11 year the community is the site of more construction, and in 2002
12 alone the city welcomed over \$110 million in new projects,
13 representing a significant increase from the \$20 million worth of
14 projects reported a decade ago; and

15 WHEREAS, Councilman Benavides has played an instrumental
16 role in attracting to the city new family-oriented entertainment
17 venues, including the Edinburg Professional Baseball Stadium, the
18 SuperSplash water park, and Carmike Cinemas 20, the most
19 technically advanced movie theater complex south of San Antonio;
20 moreover, he has helped to raise the stature of the community by
21 twice leading it to a prestigious All-America City award, a
22 national honor that the city has received three times; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to his work in behalf of local
24 businesses, Councilman Benavides has helped the city to obtain more

1 than \$125 million in new state funds to upgrade U.S. Highway 281,
2 which one day will be known as Interstate Highway 69, and to secure
3 many more tens of millions of dollars for the enhancement of major
4 traffic corridors; a strong proponent of higher education, he has
5 worked closely with state officials and University of Texas System
6 regents to dramatically upgrade the facilities at The University of
7 Texas--Pan American in Edinburg and to create The University of
8 Texas Regional Academic Health Center in Edinburg, Harlingen, and
9 Brownsville; and

10 WHEREAS, Councilman Benavides may reflect with pride on these
11 many outstanding accomplishments, and his future achievements will
12 no doubt continue to add to his already remarkable legacy as a
13 public servant, a legacy that is perhaps best captured by a
14 quotation from the writer George Eliot: "Our deeds still travel
15 with us from afar, And what we have been makes us what we are."; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commend Arnoldo F. Benavides on his exemplary
19 service to the community of Edinburg and the State of Texas; and, be
20 it further

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