

By: Luna

H.R. No. 1718

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Clotilde Perez "Cleo" Garcia, M.D.,
2 on May 27, 2003, at the age of 86, has brought a tremendous loss to
3 the friends, relatives, and admirers of this renowned physician,
4 civil rights leader, and educator, as well as to the entire State of
5 Texas; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on January 9, 1917, to a family of teachers, Dr.
7 Garcia learned at an early age the power of education to transform
8 the world; a graduate of Mercedes High School, she earned several
9 degrees at Pan American University and The University of Texas at
10 Austin, temporarily putting her plans for medical school on hold to
11 work as a teacher and administrator in South Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, This brilliant and hardworking young woman
13 fulfilled her ambition to become a doctor in 1954, when she
14 graduated from The University of Texas School of Medicine in
15 Galveston; defying the odds, she not only received the title of
16 Outstanding Medical Student during her first year of studies, but
17 became one of the Lone Star State's first female doctors of Hispanic
18 descent; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Garcia's illustrious career in medicine was
20 shaped by her desire to help others, especially those of the most
21 limited resources, by providing medical education, treatment, and
22 preventative treatment; the impact she had on those around her can
23 be inferred from the fact that she delivered more than 10,000 babies
24 during her decades of practice, which ended in 1994 when she retired

1 to pursue her other interests; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to her tireless work as a physician and
3 surgeon, Dr. Garcia applied her phenomenal intelligence and focus
4 to genealogical research and to the task of chronicling the history
5 of the greater Corpus Christi area; her collection of historical
6 papers and books is today housed at Texas A&M University--Corpus
7 Christi, a substantial legacy that will benefit the citizens of
8 Texas for many years to come; and

9 WHEREAS, Not content with being merely an accomplished
10 physician, educator, historian, and scholar, Dr. Garcia was also a
11 devoted community advocate and civil rights leader; she was the
12 former national health director of LULAC and a member of the Nueces
13 County Anti-Poverty Program Board of Directors, the Texas
14 Constitution Revision Commission, and the Task Force to Evaluate
15 Medicaid in Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, Those who had the privilege of knowing "Dr. Cleo,"
17 as she was affectionately known to so many, will never forget the
18 passion, enthusiasm, and commitment that this talented woman
19 brought to every single facet of her life; although her presence is
20 gone from us now, her work will endure for generations to come, and
21 her memory will live on in the hearts of the many thousands of
22 Texans whose lives she touched during her years on this earth; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Dr. Clotilde
26 Perez "Cleo" Garcia of Corpus Christi and extend profound sympathy
27 to her family: to her son, Jose Antonio "Tony" Canales; to her

1 daughter-in-law, Yolanda Garcia Canales; to her granddaughters,
2 Barbara Ann and Patricia Marie; to her grandson, Hector Antonio; to
3 her sisters, Dr. Dalia P. Garcia and Emilia Garcia Garza; to her
4 brother, Dr. Cuitlahuac P. Garcia; and to the many relatives,
5 friends, colleagues, and admirers of this remarkable Texan; and, be
6 it further

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