

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a most distinguished native
2 son with the death of Pete Tijerina, founder of the Mexican American
3 Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), on May 14, 2003, at the
4 age of 80; and

5 WHEREAS, Serving as the state civil rights chairman for San
6 Antonio's League of United Latin American Citizens in the 1960s,
7 Mr. Tijerina was outraged at the lack of representation of Mexican
8 Americans on juries; making a personal commitment of money as well
9 as time to travel throughout the Southwest, he obtained a \$2.2
10 million grant from the Ford Foundation, and MALDEF was born; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his genius and determination, Mr. Tijerina
12 set into motion a quest for justice that continues today; MALDEF is
13 committed to safeguarding the civil rights of the 40 million
14 Latinos living in the United States as the leading nonprofit Latino
15 litigation, advocacy, and educational outreach institution in the
16 country; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Tijerina was a native of Laredo and a graduate of
18 St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio; he chose to stay in the Alamo
19 City when MALDEF moved its headquarters to San Francisco in 1970,
20 but he remained committed to the organization's mission of
21 protecting the rights of Mexican Americans throughout his lifetime;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Pete Tijerina was a man who saw injustice and
24 refused to be denied, helping to open the doors of opportunity for

1 countless Latinos; his work will be a continuing source of
2 inspiration to others for generations to come, and his remarkable
3 spirit lives on in the vital legacy he forged during his time on
4 this earth; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Pete Tijerina
7 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
8 wife, Grace Tijerina; to his daughters, Lynn-Audrey Tijerina and
9 Christina Tijerina; to his son, Peter Tijerina II; to his sister,
10 Minerva Leyendecker; and to the other relatives, friends, and
11 admirers of this esteemed civil rights activist; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Pete
15 Tijerina.

Castro

Craddick	Geren	Mercer
Allen	Giddings	Merritt
Alonzo	Goodman	Miller
Bailey	Goolsby	Moreno of Harris
Baxter	Griggs	Moreno of El Paso
Berman	Grusendorf	Morrison
Bohac	Guillen	Mowery
Bonnen	Gutierrez	Naishtat
Branch	Haggerty	Nixon
Brown of Kaufman	Hamilton	Noriega
Brown of Brazos	Hamric	Oliveira
Burnam	Hardcastle	Olivo
Callegari	Harper-Brown	Paxton
Campbell	Hartnett	Pena
Canales	Heflin	Phillips
Capelo	Hegar	Pickett
Casteel	Hilderbran	Pitts
Castro	Hill	Puente
Chavez	Hochberg	Quintanilla
Chisum	Hodge	Raymond
Christian	Homer	Reyna
Coleman	Hope	Riddle
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Ritter
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Rodriguez
Corte	Hughes	Rose
Crabb	Hunter	Seaman
Crownover	Hupp	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Dawson	Jones of Bexar	Solis
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solomons
Denny	Keel	Stick
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Swinford
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Talton
Dukes	King	Taylor
Dunnam	Kolkhorst	Telford
Dutton	Krusee	Thompson
Edwards	Kuempel	Truitt
Eiland	Laney	Turner
Eissler	Laubenberg	Uresti
Elkins	Lewis	Van Arsdale
Ellis	Luna	Villarreal
Escobar	Mabry	West
Farabee	Madden	Wilson
Farrar	Marchant	Wise
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Wohlgemuth
Flynn	McCall	Wolens
Gallego	McClendon	Wong
Garza	McReynolds	Woolley
Gattis	Menendez	Zedler

H.R. No. 1979

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1979 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on June 2, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House