

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2027

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Services for people in El Paso who face mental  
2 illness have expanded significantly since the mid-1990s, when Leo  
3 E. DiValentino became involved with the National Alliance for the  
4 Mentally Ill--El Paso (NAMI El Paso); and

5           WHEREAS, A member of the NAMI El Paso board of directors since  
6 1997, Mr. DiValentino also serves as executive director of that  
7 organization; he led the expansion of the Family to Family program,  
8 which he taught for many years, introducing a Spanish-language  
9 version and establishing classes in Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico;  
10 under his leadership, NAMI El Paso has opened an office with a  
11 trained volunteer staff available five days a week and has  
12 initiated bilingual Visions for Tomorrow programs for parents of  
13 children with mental illness; and

14           WHEREAS, A NAMI representative at weekly probate court  
15 hearings at the request of the probate court judge, Mr. DiValentino  
16 chairs the education committee of the NAMI Texas board of  
17 directors, on which he has served since 2000; furthermore, he was  
18 appointed to the board of the El Paso Community Mental Health and  
19 Mental Retardation Center, and over the years he has played an  
20 integral role in numerous other mental health care endeavors,  
21 including the Life Management Task Force, the Mental Health  
22 Authority's redesign process, and the development of a law  
23 enforcement training program for El Paso County; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. DiValentino, who is a caregiver for his adult

1 stepson suffering from schizoaffective and depression disorders,  
2 has made contributions that will be of lasting benefit in the lives  
3 of countless mentally ill Texans and their families, and the  
4 tremendous role he has played in the community truly deserves  
5 legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

6         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby commend Leo E. DiValentino for his invaluable  
8 work with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill--El Paso and  
9 extend to him warmest best wishes for future success and happiness;  
10 and, be it further

11         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for Mr. DiValentino as an expression of high regard by the  
13 Texas House of Representatives.