

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 303**

**WHEREAS**, The Honorable Tony Garza, the United States Ambassador to Mexico, has been selected as the 2003 Border Texan of the Year by Hidalgo's Borderfest Association, and this prestigious designation is indeed well deserved; and

**WHEREAS**, A Brownsville native, Ambassador Garza earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from The University of Texas and went on to attain a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, This exemplary Texan was drawn to public service and in 1988 was the first Republican elected to countywide office in Cameron County; six years later he was appointed Texas Secretary of State by Governor George Bush, whom he also served as a senior advisor and as the governor's lead liaison on border and Mexico affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, Ambassador Garza made another historic mark on the Texas political landscape in 1998 when he became the first Hispanic Republican elected to statewide office; as the state's 41st railroad commissioner, he worked to maintain the strength of our state's energy sector, while promoting safety and a balanced approach to the preservation of the state's natural resources; in addition, he also lent his expertise and commitment to Governor Rick Perry's Special Commission on 21st Century Colleges and Universities; and

**WHEREAS**, Ambassador Garza's many accolades include a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southern Methodist University School of Law and recognition as one of five Outstanding Young

Texas Exes in 1989, and he has twice been tabbed by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of its "Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics"; and

**WHEREAS**, A distinguished and dedicated public servant, Ambassador Garza is a credit to this country and to this state, and it is most appropriate that his significant achievements be celebrated at this time; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby congratulate Ambassador Tony Garza on being named 2003 Border Texan of the Year and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Ambassador Garza as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 5, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate