

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 367

WHEREAS, Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi earned nationwide renown as a humanitarian and civil rights advocate; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, this proud patriot joined the United States Army during World War II, immediately after completing his surgical internship; he attained the rank of major in the Medical Corps and earned a Bronze Star with six battle stars for his valorous service; and

WHEREAS, Following his military discharge, Dr. Garcia opened a medical practice in Corpus Christi, where he often provided free medical care to those who could not afford to pay, and saw the effects of discrimination against Mexican Americans; and

WHEREAS, This truly notable Texan established the American GI Forum, an organization composed primarily of veterans and dedicated to securing equal rights for American Latinos, and throughout his life, he worked for such causes as bilingual education, school desegregation, job creation, and housing; and

WHEREAS, The American GI Forum today continues to reflect this remarkable humanitarian's deep commitment to treating others with dignity and to working within the system to effect change; and

WHEREAS, Long active in politics on the state and national levels, Dr. Garcia was named by President Lyndon Baines Johnson as a member of the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity and the United States Commission on Civil Rights and as a delegate to the United Nations, and President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Beloved by the people of Corpus Christi, "Dr. Hector" was accorded many well-deserved accolades, including having a city park, a post office, and Memorial Medical Center's indigent health clinic named for him; in addition, he received the first honorary doctorate conferred by Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, which also erected a statue of him and dedicated a plaza on campus in his honor; in 1990, he was further lauded for his exceptional endeavors by Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, A man of tremendous decency and compassion, Dr. Garcia devoted his life to the service of others, and through his unrelenting efforts the country he cherished achieved a fuller realization of its highest ideals; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas,
78th Legislature, hereby honor Dr. Hector P. Garcia for his
immeasurable contributions as a physician and as a leader in the
struggle to guarantee civil rights for all Americans.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on March 26, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate