

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 565

In Memory
of
Robert Harris
Gaspar Saenz Hinojosa
Robin Leavell
Hector Martinez, Jr.
Julio Mireles
Stvan Francisco Rivas
Chealsa Welch
Barry Welch

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins citizens across Texas in mourning the loss of the people who died on September 15, 2001, and in recognizing those who participated in rescue efforts and those who survived when the Queen Isabella Causeway collapsed; and

WHEREAS, A string of four barges pushed by a tugboat slammed into the bridge early on that fateful morning, toppling a 160-foot section and sending several cars and trucks into the water more than 80 feet below; and

WHEREAS, The eight people who lost their lives were Robert "Bob" Harris, Gaspar Saenz Hinojosa, Robin Leavell, Hector Martinez, Jr., Julio Mireles, Stvan Francisco Rivas, Chealsa Welch, and Barry Welch; and

WHEREAS, Through the heroic and cooperative efforts of individuals and members of federal, state, and local agencies, three people were rescued; the survivors are Brigette Goza of Port Isabel, Rene Mata of Laguna Vista, and Gustavo Morales, Jr., of Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, Many are credited with working diligently and bravely together in the rescue and recovery mission and afterwards in the extensive reconstruction of the bridge, which was reopened November 21, 2001; those participating included members of the United States Coast Guard, the American Red Cross, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Port Isabel, Brownsville, San Benito, Weslaco, Los Fresnos, and South Padre Island emergency medical services, police, fire, and public works personnel, and other state and federal agencies, as well as many other private businesses in South Texas; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the people who lost their lives and the individual volunteers and governmental agencies involved in the extraordinary rescue and recovery efforts at the Queen Isabella Causeway collapse forever be remembered; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the friends and families of those who lost their lives in the Queen Isabella Causeway tragedy on September 15, 2001, and join the survivors in expressing deepest gratitude to the many people who worked in the rescue and recovery efforts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Robert Harris, Gaspar Saenz Hinojosa, Robin Leavell, Hector Martinez, Jr., Julio Mireles, Stvan Francisco Rivas, Chealsa Welch, and Barry Welch.

Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate