

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 897

In Memory
of
Pedro Tijerina

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of San Antonio in mourning the loss of Judge Pedro "Pete" Tijerina, who died May 14, 2003, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Pete Tijerina was a Laredo native and served in World War II with the Army Air Corps; he received his law license in 1951 and soon thereafter began his 50-year career practicing law in San Antonio; he served as a judge on the 4th Court of Appeals from 1982 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, One of Judge Tijerina's most lasting legacies is the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the country's first Hispanic legal advocacy organization, which he established in 1968; the organization's success is largely due to Pete Tijerina's passion for improving conditions for the Mexican American community; and

WHEREAS, The organization, known as MALDEF, has been at the forefront of important cases involving integration of schools, bilingual and bicultural educational programs, and employment discrimination; it won a landmark victory in 1989 when the Texas Supreme Court found that the state's method of public school financing was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, Pete Tijerina was respected in the community for his many accomplishments; he was a generous man who gave

unselfishly of his time to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Pedro Tijerina: his wife of 49 years, Grace Tijerina; his daughters, Lynn Audrey and Christina Tijerina; his son, Peter Tijerina; his sister, Minerva Leyendecker; and his two grandsons; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Pedro Tijerina.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 16, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate