

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 986**

**WHEREAS**, Johnny N. Mata of Houston has long rendered exceptional service to the Latino community in Texas and to the cause of social justice; and

**WHEREAS**, Born May 6, 1937, Mr. Mata grew up in Houston's East End and attended Austin High School; he later served his country as a member of the United States Army, during which time he was posted in Germany; while overseas, he made the most of the opportunity to explore a variety of European cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mata returned to Houston following his discharge, and in 1968, he joined the staff of the Gulf Coast Community Services Association; possessing an inexhaustible energy and an unflagging desire to help those struggling to make a better life for themselves, he proved an invaluable asset to the agency and remained there for 32 years until his retirement in June of 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mata's commitment to a life of service has further borne fruit in the creation of the Latino Learning Center, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that he cofounded in 1979 and that provides low-income clients in the Houston area with vocational training and other vital assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition, from the time he was a boy stepping forward to confront a school bully, Johnny Mata has raised his voice repeatedly and unhesitatingly against prejudice and injustice; for the past 35 years, he has addressed those issues as a leader in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); currently director of media and communications for LULAC District VIII in the Houston area, he has served two terms as Texas state director, two terms as state deputy director, and six terms as director of two local LULAC districts; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, Mr. Mata has spoken out forcefully about such matters as the deaths of Latino detainees in police custody, the lack of Latino representation on grand juries, and incendiary ethnic remarks made by both local and national figures; a well-known and highly regarded community leader, he has spurred favorable action on specific concerns from such individuals as owners of a local professional sports team to residents of the White House; and

**WHEREAS**, Through his productive professional career and his spirited, unflagging advocacy, Johnny Mata has aided countless individuals and contributed immeasurably to building a stronger, more just society; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby honor Johnny N. Mata for his inspiring service on behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens

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and the people of Houston and extend to him sincere appreciation for his steadfast commitment to securing a brighter future for residents of the Lone Star State; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Mata as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Gallegos

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate