

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1017

In Memory  
of  
Dr. Clotilde Garcia

**WHEREAS**, The passing of Clotilde Perez "Cleo" Garcia, M.D., on May 27, 2003, at the age of 86, has brought a tremendous loss to the friends, relatives, and admirers of this renowned physician, civil rights leader, and educator, as well as to the entire State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Born on January 9, 1917, to a family of teachers, Dr. Garcia learned at an early age the power of education to transform the world; a graduate of Mercedes High School, she earned several degrees at Pan American University and The University of Texas at Austin, temporarily putting her plans for medical school on hold to work as a teacher and administrator in South Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, This brilliant and hardworking young woman fulfilled her ambition to become a doctor in 1954, when she graduated from The University of Texas School of Medicine in Galveston; defying the odds, she not only received the title of Outstanding Medical Student during her first year of studies, but became one of the Lone Star State's first female doctors of Hispanic descent; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Garcia's illustrious career in medicine was shaped by her desire to help others, especially those of the most limited resources, by providing medical education, treatment, and preventative treatment; the impact she had on those around her can be inferred from the fact that she delivered more than 10,000 babies during her decades of practice, which ended in 1994 when she retired to pursue her other interests; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to her tireless work as a physician and surgeon, Dr. Garcia applied her phenomenal intelligence and focus to genealogical research and to the task of chronicling the history of the greater Corpus Christi area; her collection of historical papers and books is today housed at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, a substantial legacy that will benefit the citizens of Texas for many years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, Not content with being merely an accomplished physician, educator, historian, and scholar, Dr. Garcia was also a devoted community advocate and civil rights leader; she was the former national health director of the League of United Latin American Citizens and a member of the Nueces County Anti-Poverty Program Board of Directors, the Texas Constitution Revision Commission, and the Task Force to Evaluate Medicaid in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Those who had the privilege of knowing "Dr. Cleo," as she was affectionately known to so many, will never forget the passion, enthusiasm, and commitment that this talented woman brought to every single facet of her life; although her presence is gone from us now, her work will endure for generations to come, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the many thousands of

Texans whose lives she touched during her years on this earth;  
now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas,  
78th Legislature, hereby pay special tribute to the life  
of Dr. Clotilde Perez "Cleo" Garcia of Corpus Christi and  
extend profound sympathy to her family: to her son,  
Jose Antonio "Tony" Canales; to her daughter-in-law,  
Yolanda Garcia Canales; to her granddaughters, Barbara Ann and  
Patricia Marie; to her grandson, Hector Antonio; to her sisters,  
Dr. Dalia P. Garcia and Emilia Garcia Garza; to her brother,  
Dr. Cuitlahuac P. Garcia; and to the many relatives, friends,  
colleagues, and admirers of this remarkable Texan; and, be it  
further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be  
prepared for the members of her family as an expression of high  
regard by 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 May 30, 2003, by a  
rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate