

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 26

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, During her lifetime, Dr. Margaret Giller Cigarroa
2 worked to improve and safeguard the health and welfare of her fellow
3 Laredo citizens, and the naming of a Laredo ISD Literacy Center in
4 her memory provides a fitting and enduring tribute to this
5 dedicated physician; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on October 24, 1925, in Chicago, Dr. Cigarroa
7 was one of the first women to receive a bachelor's degree and
8 medical degree from the University of Illinois; while completing
9 her residency at the Cook County Hospital in 1950, she met and
10 married the love of her life, Dr. Leonides Gonzalez Cigarroa; and

11 WHEREAS, The couple moved to Laredo in 1951, and it is said
12 that within an hour of her arrival, Dr. Peggy, as she was
13 affectionately called, was already treating a child sick with
14 scarlet fever; a true country doctor, she regularly made house
15 calls and began her practice charging only \$3 for office visits,
16 although food was also an acceptable method of payment, and she
17 often treated patients for nothing at all; and

18 WHEREAS, The city's public health officer from 1964 into the
19 1980s, Dr. Cigarroa created the area's tuberculosis program and
20 established and regularly visited a leprosy clinic as well as
21 health centers for the poor in the neighborhoods of La Ladrillera,
22 Santo Nino, and Farias; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to offering Laredo residents care of the
24 highest caliber, she served as president of the Tri-County Medical

1 Society, chief of obstetrics at Mercy Hospital, secretary of the
2 Council for Public Health in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, and medical
3 advisor for the Webb County Chapter of the March of Dimes; following
4 the death of her husband in 1973, she completed his term on the
5 Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation while
6 maintaining a full-time family practice, raising six children, and
7 fulfilling her many other civic and professional commitments; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Cigarroa was deservedly named Woman of the Year
9 by the *Laredo Morning Times* in 1976 for her innumerable
10 contributions to her community; she retired from private practice
11 in 1995, and while she kept up with the medical field by
12 participating in conferences, she also found time to indulge in one
13 of her favorite pastimes, reading, and it is especially appropriate
14 that a literacy center be named in honor of this avid reader; Dr.
15 Cigarroa died on November 26, 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, Those who had the privilege of knowing Dr. Peggy
17 will never forget the passion, enthusiasm, and commitment that this
18 talented woman brought to every facet of her life; for half a
19 century she remained resolute in her dedication to bringing hope
20 and health to all in need; her life was shaped by her desire to help
21 others, especially those of the most limited resources, and the
22 LISD Literacy Center named in her honor will stand as a lasting
23 reminder of the profound impact she had on the city of Laredo; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,
26 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of this
27 remarkable Texan and commemorate the dedication of the Dr. Margaret

1 G. Cigarroa Literacy Center.