

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 56

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former Austin resident Leo Anchondo received the
2 first Ed Wendler Award for Service to the Immigrant Community from
3 Casa Marianella in March 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, The award is named for the late Ed Wendler, Sr., an
5 Austin attorney, lobbyist, and civil rights activist who donated to
6 the Catholic Diocese of Austin the Casa Marianella facility, a
7 Gunter Street home that serves as a shelter for Latin American
8 refugees and immigrants in the Capital City; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Anchondo served as director of the Office of
10 Immigrant Concerns for Catholic Charities of Central Texas, an
11 agency he established and developed in order to keep families
12 together and to reunite those separated due to immigration laws; he
13 was also appointed to the City of Austin Commission on Immigrant
14 Affairs; and

15 WHEREAS, Before coming to Texas in 2001, Mr. Anchondo earned
16 a bachelor's degree in political science and psychology at Colorado
17 University in Denver; he subsequently obtained certification from
18 Oxford University as a non-English ESL/EFL instructor and
19 accumulated 10 years of experience teaching English as a second
20 language, citizenship, and employability skills, as well as a
21 decade of immigration legal representation experience; the
22 director of the Immigration Department and the coordinator of the
23 Family Education Department for Catholic Charities of Central New
24 Mexico for several years, this esteemed professional has helped to

1 lead several organizations, including the Latin American
2 Association for Development, the Albuquerque Human Rights Office,
3 and Organizacion Latinos Unidas in New Mexico and the League of
4 United Latin American Citizens in Denver; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, Mr. Anchondo serves as director of the
6 Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign in Washington,
7 D.C., an initiative that promotes comprehensive immigration reform
8 and links more than 20 national Catholic organizations in educating
9 citizens about Catholic social teachings on migration; and

10 WHEREAS, In Texas and beyond, Leo Anchondo has worked
11 diligently to further the civil and human rights of immigrants and
12 to build a more just and compassionate society, and his selection as
13 the first recipient of this prestigious award is an apt reflection
14 of his commitment to this worthy cause; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
16 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate Leo Anchondo
17 on his receipt of the first Ed Wendler Award for Service to the
18 Immigrant Community from Casa Marianella and commend him for his
19 many years of dedication to enhancing and expanding the
20 opportunities available to immigrants; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Anchondo as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.