

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 325

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On Saturday, January 21, 2006, the community of
2 Three Rivers paid tribute to one of its illustrious citizens by
3 dedicating a park in the name of Aristeo Ponce; and

4 WHEREAS, This homage to Mr. Ponce is indeed fitting as it
5 provides a permanent monument to this respected leader in the heart
6 of the Barrio neighborhood that he loved so well; it was there that
7 he established a grocery and a dance hall, both of which became
8 important institutions for the Hispanic community of Three Rivers
9 beginning in the mid-1900s; and

10 WHEREAS, Born in 1896 in Monterrey, Mexico, Mr. Ponce grew up
11 in an era when towns were tightly knit and neighbors took care of
12 one another, and he sought to live up to those ideals for the rest of
13 his life; a businessperson who put compassion ahead of profit, his
14 generous credit terms helped families to survive in times of need,
15 while the alcohol-free A. Ponce Dance Hall gave both adults and
16 children a wholesome place to enjoy music and to enjoy themselves;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, A proud American who saw seven of his 11 children
19 serve in the United States military, Mr. Ponce also upheld his
20 Mexican heritage and urged his neighbors to do the same; this was
21 especially true during the holidays of Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis
22 de Septiembre, when Mr. Ponce sponsored well-loved community
23 celebrations where the history, customs, and language of Mexico
24 were honored and where the flags of the United States, Texas, and

1 Mexico stood side by side; and

2 WHEREAS, The influence of this civic leader did not end on his
3 passing in 1973 but has continued to be felt in the decades since,
4 inspiring the residents of Three Rivers to reach out to one another
5 in hopes of creating a safe and enjoyable place to live; and

6 WHEREAS, In a time when strong communities and families are
7 more important than ever, the dedication of Aristeo Ponce Park, a
8 place where neighbors can come together, serves as a hopeful sign
9 that the worthy ideals promoted by Mr. Ponce are alive and well in
10 his South Texas hometown; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the memory of Aristeo
13 Ponce and commemorate the dedication of the park named in his honor;
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
16 for the city and for Mr. Ponce's family as an expression of high
17 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.