

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 526

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Since childhood, Guadalupe Vargas has used  
2 photography and poetry to express his ideas about the world, and  
3 today his art contributes to the rich culture of Del Rio; and

4           WHEREAS, This esteemed artist has worked for more than two  
5 decades as a customs and border protection officer at the Del Rio  
6 port of entry, but since December 2004, he has also been the  
7 proprietor of Vevilu Gallery, which he runs with his wife, Irasema;  
8 in addition to his own photographs, it features rotating displays  
9 of work by other artists and offers framing services; and

10           WHEREAS, Many of his photographs reveal soldiers and combat  
11 scenes taken during 1970 and 1971 when Mr. Vargas served this nation  
12 as a helicopter door gunner in Laos and Vietnam, and these photos  
13 make up a large part of what he calls "The Lupe Vargas Collection";  
14 today, much of his photography reflects the rural scenery near his  
15 home; and

16           WHEREAS, When his granddaughter, Elaine Oyama, was born  
17 several years ago, Mr. Vargas was inspired to overlay the words of  
18 one of his poems onto one of his photos, creating an artistic  
19 combination; in 2005, he paired one of his combat photographs with a  
20 poem he wrote in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, and  
21 he sent the framed work of art to President Bush; a few weeks later,  
22 he received a letter of appreciation signed by the president;  
23 duplicates of the piece are on display at the Audie Murphy Veterans  
24 Hospital in San Antonio and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in

1 Savannah, Georgia; and

2 WHEREAS, The recipient of both a Purple Heart and an Air Medal  
3 with "V" Device, Guadalupe Vargas is a source of great pride to his  
4 family and community, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize him  
5 for his myriad achievements; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
7 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Guadalupe Vargas for  
8 his artistic contributions to Del Rio and extend to him sincere best  
9 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for Mr. Vargas as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
12 House of Representatives.