

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 659

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In his long and distinguished career as a lawyer and
2 civic activist, Peter "Pete" Torres, Jr., has stood as a role model
3 for the Hispanic residents of Texas and, indeed, for all citizens
4 interested in making their state a better place in which to live and
5 work; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Torres's many achievements have been recognized
7 by the Hispanic Law Alumni Association of St. Mary's University,
8 who made him a recipient of the group's prestigious Henry B.
9 Gonzalez Award for 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, A proud son of San Antonio, Mr. Torres graduated
11 from Brackenridge High School, then served with the United States
12 Marine Corps during the Korean War; he returned to San Antonio to
13 attend St. Mary's University, earning an undergraduate degree in
14 government in 1957 and a law degree in 1963; Mr. Torres opened a law
15 office in his hometown and soon became well known for his expertise
16 in consumer legal affairs, as well as for his unflappable composure
17 and keen intellect; and

18 WHEREAS, His concern for the citizens of San Antonio
19 compelled him to seek an active role in local government; in 1967 he
20 staged a successful campaign to win a seat on the city council and
21 did so without the support of the Good Government League, an
22 organization that then dominated San Antonio politics; during his
23 four years on the council, Mr. Torres was not afraid to challenge
24 the actions of other members when he believed they were not acting

1 in the city's best interests, and he fought to bring greater
2 openness and accountability to the council's activities; and

3 WHEREAS, Leaving elective office certainly didn't end his
4 involvement in the political process; he has remained committed to
5 civic affairs, offering an informed and influential voice on a
6 broad range of issues and inspiring a new generation of Hispanic
7 leaders; and

8 WHEREAS, Realizing that the legal community could influence
9 matters that were vital to Latino citizens, Mr. Torres assisted in
10 the formation of the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of
11 Texas in 1979; serving as the group's first chair, he led efforts to
12 give under-represented groups a larger voice in the legal process
13 and better representation in the Texas courts; and

14 WHEREAS, Pete Torres has had a positive and lasting impact on
15 this state as a visionary pioneer who has helped the Hispanic
16 population of Texas to achieve a larger voice in political and legal
17 affairs; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
19 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Pete Torres, Jr., for
20 his contributions to legal, civic, and governmental affairs and
21 extend to him best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,
22 be it further

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