

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize John Flores for his perseverance and exceptional skill in reporting the story of Dolia González and her son, the late United States Marine Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" González, a Rio Grande Valley Vietnam War hero; and

WHEREAS, A reporter and freelance writer, John was formerly on the staff of *The Monitor* newspaper as an Edinburg Bureau reporter; it was there that he discovered that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs had cancelled the benefits Dolia González had been receiving after her son's death and that the department was demanding \$8,000 in reimbursement for an alleged overpayment of benefits; her son had been posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his exceptional bravery in the war; and

WHEREAS, John also found out that the United States Navy was constructing a warship to be named in honor of Sergeant Freddy González and that the navy wanted Dolia to take part in the ceremony christening the ship; he helped make arrangements for her to attend the ceremony; and

WHEREAS, When John became aware of Dolia's difficulties with the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the alleged overpayment of benefits, he wrote a series of stories on the matter that were picked up by various media outlets around the country; and

WHEREAS, As a result of John's reporting, the Albertson's Corporation grocery chain generously covered the cost of the government's alleged overpayment; in the fall of 1998, the United States Marine Corps honored John Flores for his efforts to care for the family of the fallen marine, and it is fitting that the Texas Senate pay tribute to him for his tenacity and successful endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend John Flores for his outstanding work as a reporter and an author and for his efforts to achieve justice for Dolia González; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2006.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate