

By: Solis

H.R. No. 479

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Reynaldo Garza, the nation's first
2 Hispanic federal judge, passed away at the age of 89 on September
3 14, 2004, and the loss of this trailblazing jurist offers a fitting
4 opportunity to remember him and to celebrate his life and
5 achievements; and

6 WHEREAS, An inspirational figure in the lives of generations
7 of Mexican Americans, Judge Garza was appointed by President John
8 F. Kennedy to the United States District Court's Southern District
9 of Texas in 1961; that historic event opened the doors for Hispanic
10 Americans and other minority groups to play a more prominent role in
11 our nation's legislative and judicial systems; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Garza's term on the district court was
13 followed by his appointment to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
14 by President Jimmy Carter in 1979; just three years after his
15 appointment, he achieved senior status on the court, and throughout
16 his impressive tenure he continued to build on his reputation as a
17 leader and mentor in the legal community; and

18 WHEREAS, The son of Mexican immigrants, Reynaldo Garza was
19 born on July 7, 1915, and attended high school in Brownsville; after
20 earning his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at
21 Austin in 1939, he proudly served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942 to
22 1945; and

23 WHEREAS, A true pioneer and a judicial giant in the Rio Grande
24 Valley and beyond, Judge Garza is remembered by countless friends

1 and family members for his intelligence, integrity, and
2 determination; he was a humble man of strong faith, who inspired
3 young and old alike and possessed a keen sense of humor, and he is
4 dearly missed by all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable
7 Reynaldo Garza and extend deepest sympathy to his wife, Bertha, to
8 his children, to his grandchildren, and to the other relatives,
9 friends, and admirers of this esteemed gentleman; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge
14 Reynaldo Garza.