

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 930

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After 36 years of exemplary public service, Emilio
2 Salmon of Marathon stepped down from his position as a Brewster
3 County commissioner in January 2005, and it is indeed fitting to
4 honor this remarkable man for his many outstanding achievements;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Initially elected in 1968, Mr. Salmon has witnessed
7 innumerable changes over the course of his political career; as a
8 young Hispanic boy growing up in West Texas, he often encountered
9 discrimination, such as when he and other Mexican Americans were
10 prohibited from entering public restaurants in his community;
11 although it was largely unheard of in that day for a Hispanic to
12 serve in public office, he was determined to find a way to effect
13 change in the community, and, after narrowly losing a contested
14 election in 1964, he won by 85 votes four years later; and

15 WHEREAS, Once elected, he approached all projects with an eye
16 toward justice and toward correcting racial inequities for the good
17 of the entire community; by ensuring that funding was allocated
18 equally to Hispanic and Anglo sections of town, he gradually won the
19 confidence and respect of his fellow commissioners and all of his
20 constituents; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Salmon played a key role in the completion of
22 numerous infrastructure projects, including paving, sewer system
23 improvements, water development, housing rehabilitation, and
24 recreational facility improvements; he was instrumental on the

1 commissioners courts that authorized the building of a new Brewster
2 County Jail, the Courthouse Annex, the Marathon Emergency Response
3 Center, and the South Brewster County Community Center and the
4 renovation of the Old Post Office; working consistently to keep
5 taxes and the costs of basic services as low as possible, he
6 remained mindful of the difficulties faced by elderly citizens with
7 fixed incomes; he also actively championed programs for children
8 and young people during his years of service; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Salmon has benefited from
10 the love and support of his wife of 52 years, Lupe Salmon, as well as
11 his four children, Joe, Maria, Priscilla, and Gracie; and

12 WHEREAS, An unlikely prospect for a successful political
13 life, this ranch hand's son who quit school in the sixth grade and
14 taught himself English has had a profound impact on the lives of his
15 fellow citizens, helping to transform his community into a more
16 equitable place for all of its residents; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commend Emilio Salmon for nearly four decades of
19 service as a county commissioner for Brewster County and
20 acknowledge the rich legacy of honesty, integrity, and fairness
21 that he brought to that office; and, be it further

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