

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Felix Longoria, a soldier from Three Rivers, gave  
2 his life during World War II while fighting for the liberties of all  
3 Americans, and in his death, this Texas hero became a galvanizing  
4 force for the Mexican American civil rights movement; and

5           WHEREAS, Private Longoria grew up in a segregated society,  
6 one in which those of Mexican descent faced numerous restrictions  
7 as second-class citizens; he knew equality as an American for only a  
8 brief time in his life, during his service in the United States  
9 Army; and

10          WHEREAS, Drafted on November 11, 1944, Private Longoria was  
11 25 when he entered the military, leaving behind a wife and a  
12 four-year-old daughter; he died on June 15, 1945, killed by a  
13 Japanese sniper while serving on a voluntary scouting patrol in the  
14 Cagayan Valley, Luzon, Philippines; and

15          WHEREAS, When Private Longoria's remains were returned to the  
16 States, his widow, Beatriz Longoria, and her sister contacted Dr.  
17 Hector Garcia, a Corpus Christi physician; the previous year, Dr.  
18 Garcia had organized the American G.I. Forum to help Latino  
19 veterans secure the benefits and medical treatment owed them by  
20 law; and

21          WHEREAS, Dr. Garcia sent a request via telegram to 17  
22 government officials; he also called a meeting of the Corpus  
23 Christi chapter of the forum to discuss a course of action; during  
24 the meeting, which drew an attendance of more than 1,000 people, a

1 telegram arrived from the state's junior senator, Lyndon B.  
2 Johnson, saying that he had arranged for Private Longoria to be  
3 buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

4 WHEREAS, Private Longoria was buried at Arlington on February  
5 16, 1949; joining his family at the ceremony were Senator Johnson  
6 and Lady Bird Johnson, Congressman John Lyle, and General Harry H.  
7 Vaughan, a military aide to President Harry Truman; and

8 WHEREAS, Through his pride in his country and his readiness  
9 to go above and beyond his duty, Felix Longoria typified thousands  
10 of Latino servicemen, and the shameful treatment initially accorded  
11 him in death encouraged the American G.I. Forum to expand the scope  
12 of its efforts and gave forceful impetus to the Mexican American  
13 civil rights movement; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the memory of Private  
16 Felix Longoria for his selfless devotion to his country and the  
17 cause of liberty and honor.

Gonzalez Toureilles  
Herrero  
Escobar

H.R. No. 1843

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1843 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 27, 2005.

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Chief Clerk of the House