R E S O L U T I O N

1   WHEREAS, Cruz Mata, a lifelong resident of Kingsville and

2 Kleberg County, proudly served his country during World War II, and

3 his bravery and courage on the front lines have earned him the

4 lasting respect of several generations of Americans; and

5   WHEREAS, Mr. Mata was captured while fighting the German army

6 in France; during his time as a soldier, he kept a personal diary of

7 his experiences during the war, including his capture by the

8 Germans and his incarceration in a prison camp; and

9   WHEREAS, Despite the harsh interrogation techniques of the

10 Germans, Mr. Mata never wavered in doing his patriotic duty,

11 offering only his name, rank, and serial number to his captors; not

12 entirely fluent in English at the time of his capture, Mr. Mata may

13 have been mistaken for one of the army's Navajo code talkers, whose

14 language was developed into one of the most successful and

15 significant military codes of all time; and

16   WHEREAS, Mr. Mata never gave up hope during his imprisonment,

17 remaining confident that America would prevail against the Axis

18 Powers, and his belief, of course, was ultimately realized; after

19 the war, he returned to Kingsville, where he worked for many years

20 before enjoying a well-deserved retirement; and

21   WHEREAS, A proud family man, an exemplary citizen, and an

22 honorable veteran, Mr. Mata is blessed with many wonderful friends

23 in Kingsville and Kleberg Counties, and this recognition is indeed

24 well deserved; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

2 Legislature hereby honor U.S. Army veteran Cruz Mata for his

3 service to America and his contributions to ensuring the freedom

4 that we all enjoy because of proud soldiers like him who have served

5 our country with distinction; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

7 prepared for Mr. Mata as an expression of high regard by the Texas

8 House of Representatives.