

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 2023

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Fernando Mancias, former state district judge and  
2 current community activist, is a hero to many people in the McAllen  
3 area, for his commendable service as a member of the judiciary and  
4 as a private practicing attorney has benefited countless  
5 individuals and families; and

6           WHEREAS, The son of migrant farm workers, Judge Mancias was  
7 born in Nyssa, Oregon, in 1953 and was raised with eight siblings in  
8 a humble, but loving environment; after moving to Texas with his  
9 family at the age of five, he attended public schools until the  
10 ninth grade, when he dropped out; and

11           WHEREAS, Thanks to the encouragement of one of his former  
12 teachers, the future judge returned to school, graduating from high  
13 school in 1972; four years later, he earned his undergraduate  
14 degree from Pan American University, and in 1979 he earned a law  
15 degree from Washington and Lee University; and

16           WHEREAS, After working in behalf of the indigent and helpless  
17 for two years, he became a prosecutor with the San Patricio County  
18 Attorney's Office; this role, however, did not suit him, and he went  
19 into private practice; during those years, he served on the PSJA  
20 School Board, devoting his time and energy in an effort to decrease  
21 the dropout rate of area students; and

22           WHEREAS, In 1987, Fernando Mancias was elected state district  
23 judge after campaigning for 27 months; his victory in that election  
24 marked a new beginning for citizens in the district, particularly

1 women who felt that they had not previously received the judicial  
2 hearings that they needed and deserved; and

3 WHEREAS, Judge Mancias served three terms on the bench before  
4 retiring in 2000; although he was able to help citizens during his  
5 years as a member of the judiciary, he has always felt that he could  
6 do more as a private citizen--and he has proven that to be true with  
7 his efforts in support of his church, would-be dropouts, and the  
8 indigent; and

9 WHEREAS, Few individuals have given as much to the McAllen  
10 community as Judge Fernando Mancias, whose incredible rise from  
11 poverty to political prominence has inspired untold numbers in the  
12 Rio Grande Valley, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize this  
13 esteemed gentleman and to commend him for his exceptional record of  
14 service to his fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby honor Judge Fernando Mancias for his exemplary  
17 community service and extend best wishes to him for continued  
18 success and happiness in all his future endeavors; and, be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Judge Mancias as an expression of high regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives.