

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 943

In Memory
of
José Mendoza Lopez

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of San Antonio in mourning the loss of World War II hero José Mendoza Lopez, who died May 16, 2005, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, José Mendoza Lopez was the oldest living Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor and one of fewer than 40 surviving World War II veterans with the honor; he received the nation's highest honor for bravery for single-handedly repelling German infantry forces advancing on his unit near the start of the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, José enlisted in the Army in 1942; he was a member of the 23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division and was credited with fending off dozens of German troops and tanks trying to overrun his company near Krinkelt, Belgium, on December 17, 1944; and

WHEREAS, He was cited for his gallantry and intrepidity in his military missions in which he killed at least 100 of the enemy and was almost solely responsible for allowing Company K to avoid being enveloped and giving other forces time to build a line which repelled the enemy drive; he was also awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, He was born in Santiago Huitlan, Mexico; in his youth, he held a variety of jobs, from picking cotton to working on ships; he competed as a lightweight boxer using the name Kid Mendoza and accumulated a 52-3 record; he was married for 64 years to his beloved wife Emilia and enjoyed spending time with his family and taking them fishing or ice-skating; and

WHEREAS, A courageous military hero, José Lopez was also renowned for his kind and gentle manner, and he earned the admiration and respect of all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, José Lopez lived his life to the fullest and was a devoted father and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of José Mendoza Lopez: his son, John Lopez; his daughters, Maggie Wickwire, Candida "Marie" Pierati, Virginia Rogers, and Beatrice Pedraza; and his 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of José Mendoza Lopez.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate