

By: Pena

H.C.R. No. 195

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The residents of the Rio Grande Valley lost an
2 admired surgeon with the passing of Dr. Luis M. Rios, Sr., of
3 Edinburg on February 18, 2007, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Mexico City, Luis Rios was
5 nurtured by his mother, Maria Luisa de Rios Pastrana, as he grew up;
6 her care and devotion helped Mr. Rios to excel in his studies, and
7 he graduated first in his class as a college undergraduate and
8 second in his class in medical school; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Rios arrived in the United States in 1960 to take
10 part in an internship program at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in
11 Chicago; while living in that city, he met Mary Ann Mungovan, and
12 the two were married in 1962; he completed his residency in general
13 surgery at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, before
14 returning to Mexico City in 1966 to practice medicine; three years
15 later, he entered a residency program in plastic surgery at The
16 University of Texas at San Antonio; and

17 WHEREAS, After completing the program, Dr. Rios bypassed
18 lucrative job offers from well-established plastic surgery groups
19 around the country and instead opted to become the first plastic and
20 reconstructive surgeon in the Rio Grande Valley; treating patients
21 from Rio Grande City to Brownsville, this gifted surgeon saved
22 countless lives and restored the futures of a great number of
23 individuals who had been badly injured; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Rios was inspired by the ideal of helping anyone

1 who needed his help, and he performed his services regardless of a
2 patient's financial means; moreover, he helped found the Rio Grande
3 Valley Cranial-Facial Anomalies Advisory Group, where he and other
4 medical professionals donated their time and skills to help those
5 suffering from facial deformities; and

6 WHEREAS, Highly respected for his compassion and his
7 tremendous surgical skills, Luis Rios received numerous awards; two
8 especially prestigious accolades were the Lifetime Achievement
9 Award that he received from the Valley Association of Speech
10 Pathologists and Audiologists in 1993 and the Citation for
11 Excellence in Humanitarian Service from the National Endowment for
12 Plastic Surgery in 2005; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Rios served his country as a member of the U.S.
14 Army Reserve, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and
15 provided his medical expertise to fellow members of the armed
16 forces; a proud U.S. citizen, he viewed this military service as a
17 means of showing his appreciation for his adopted country; and

18 WHEREAS, On his retirement in 2002, Dr. Rios could reflect
19 proudly on a distinguished medical career that had extended for
20 four decades, three of which were spent in South Texas; in all of
21 his endeavors, Dr. Luis Rios displayed the highest degree of
22 technical excellence and an uncompromising devotion to the care of
23 his patients, and his illustrious record of service will long be
24 remembered by the residents of the Rio Grande Valley; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
27 hereby honor the life of Dr. Luis M. Rios, Sr., and extend deepest

1 condolences to the members of his family: to his wife of 44 years,
2 Mary Ann Rios; to his children, Dr. Luis M. Rios, Jr., and his wife,
3 Lisa, Daniel G. Rios and his wife, Monica, Edward X. Rios, and
4 Jennifer Ann Childress and her husband, Brett; to his
5 grandchildren, Christopher and Emily Rios, Nicole, Alyssa, Sydney,
6 and Steven Childress, and Edward and Sophia Rios; and to his other
7 relatives and friends; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
11 Dr. Luis M. Rios, Sr.