

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 99

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The people of Texas have lost one of their
2 staunchest advocates with the untimely, tragic passing of the
3 Honorable Frank Madla of San Antonio on November 24, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, A 33-year veteran of the Texas Legislature, Senator
5 Madla served 20 years in the house of representatives and 13 in the
6 senate before his resignation in May 2006; during that time he hewed
7 steadfastly to deeply held principles about the values of fairness,
8 civility, and bipartisanship as he worked, quietly but skillfully
9 and tenaciously, to better the lives of Texans in his district and
10 throughout the state; and

11 WHEREAS, Frank Madla was born in Helotes on January 23, 1937,
12 and became steeped in the ranching culture of South Texas; he earned
13 B.A. and M.A. degrees in government at St. Mary's University, in
14 1959 and 1963, respectively, and early in his career he spent 10
15 years teaching junior high school students; and

16 WHEREAS, While a young man, Senator Madla moved to the South
17 Side of San Antonio, an area whose citizens had long endured neglect
18 by local authorities; surveying the challenges that faced his
19 community, he determined to work through the political system to
20 redress inequities and expand opportunities for those on the
21 margins of society; and

22 WHEREAS, Shortly before winning his first term in the
23 legislature in 1972, he won election to the South San Antonio
24 Independent School District Board of Trustees; over the ensuing

1 years, he joined Frank Wing and Frank Tejeda as one of the most
2 influential political figures on the city's South Side; and

3 WHEREAS, At the same time, Senator Madla was establishing a
4 reputation as an effective legislator and as an expert in a number
5 of key policy areas; recognized for his broad understanding of
6 public education and school finance, he was appointed to the blue
7 ribbon commission established in 1984 by Governor Mark White and
8 chaired by H. Ross Perot; the commission's report led to major
9 reforms that dramatically improved the state's educational
10 standing; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to his deep involvement in educational
12 matters, Senator Madla worked extensively on issues related to
13 health and human services, water policy, and rural affairs; he
14 played an instrumental role in the creation of the Epilepsy Center
15 of South Texas, the In-Home and Family Support Program, and the
16 Office of Rural Health Care, as well as in expanding the scope of
17 practice permitted to physician assistants in rural areas; and

18 WHEREAS, Many of his most visible achievements centered on
19 San Antonio; Senator Madla secured \$20 million to redevelop Kelly
20 Air Force Base, helped to make possible a new arena for the San
21 Antonio Spurs, and provided critical assistance in bringing a
22 Toyota truck plant to the Alamo City; in recent years, he also
23 scored significant victories in his determined campaign to make
24 higher education more accessible to area students, winning
25 authorization and the approval of \$40 million in bond funding for
26 the establishment of a Texas A&M University campus in South San
27 Antonio; and

1 WHEREAS, A master of the legislative process, Frank Madla
2 succeeded in passing more than 100 house bills and 570 senate bills
3 over the course of his political career; among the members of the
4 upper chamber, he ranked first in the percentage of bills he was
5 able to pass and have signed by the governor; and

6 WHEREAS, In his final legislative term, this esteemed Texan
7 was honored with election as senate president pro tempore; his
8 outstanding work won him many other accolades through the years,
9 including awards from the Texas Hospital Association, the Texas
10 Academy of Family Physicians, *Texas Medicine Magazine*, the
11 Association of Rural Communities in Texas, the Texas Police Chiefs
12 Association, the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association, and The
13 University of Texas at San Antonio; and

14 WHEREAS, In his life away from the legislature, Senator Madla
15 devoted his energies to various business endeavors, to his duties
16 as a part-time instructor at Incarnate Word University, and to the
17 craft of nature photography, an avocation he pursued with a joyful
18 enthusiasm; and

19 WHEREAS, He took the greatest delight of all in his
20 family--in his beloved wife, Helen, in their two adored children,
21 and in their cherished granddaughter, Aleena; and

22 WHEREAS, Anchored by a deep and abiding religious faith,
23 Senator Madla continued to believe that government should serve all
24 of the people, protecting especially the weak and powerless, and
25 that the best solutions were achieved when everyone worked
26 together; he leaves behind numerous loved ones whose lives were
27 blessed by his presence, countless friends who treasured his

1 decency and tireless commitment to public service, and a shining
2 legacy that will enrich his fellow citizens for generations to
3 come; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Frank
6 Madla and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
7 his mother, Epimena Madla; to his wife, Helen Madla; to his son, Dr.
8 Frank Madla III and his wife, Nenette; to his daughter, Marci Madla;
9 to his step-granddaughter, Crystal Torres; to his brother, Ralph
10 Madla; to his sister, Mary Ellen Ibarra and her husband, Joe; and to
11 his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
15 Honorable Frank Madla.