

By: Castro

H.R. No. 419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, St. Mary's University is paying tribute to Demetrio
2 Rodriguez on February 16, 2007, in conjunction with the Sixth
3 Annual Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium; and

4 WHEREAS, Like his father before him, Mr. Rodriguez dropped
5 out of school at a young age to help support his family; bilingual
6 and able to read, he distinguished himself from his fellow field
7 hands and was soon hired to work as a bookkeeper and guide; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodriguez went on to serve his country in the
9 U.S. Navy and as a member of the Air Force Reserve; he spent his
10 career at Kelly Air Force Base, where he was employed for many years
11 as a sheet metal worker; and

12 WHEREAS, The father of five children, Mr. Rodriguez
13 recognized the importance of education and strove to instill this
14 value in his sons and daughter; in 1968, when students at Edgewood
15 High School walked out to protest inadequate supplies, teachers
16 without certification, and buildings in disrepair, he joined with
17 other parents of students to organize the Edgewood District
18 Concerned Parents Association; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodriguez became the lead plaintiff in *Rodriguez*
20 *v. San Antonio ISD*, which ultimately helped to spark other cases
21 that resulted in the promotion of greater equality in the
22 classroom; and

23 WHEREAS, Through his courageous stand in behalf of a more
24 just and responsible educational system, Demetrio Rodriguez has

1 striven to create a brighter future for all Texans; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
4 Legislature hereby honor Demetrio Rodriguez for his commitment to
5 social justice and the betterment of public education and extend to
6 him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for Mr. Rodriguez as an expression of high regard by the
9 Texas House of Representatives.