

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rogelio Sanchez, the longest-serving county
2 commissioner in the history of El Paso County, passed away on
3 November 28, 2006, leaving behind a loving family, many friends and
4 admirers, and a community grateful for his years of dedicated
5 service; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on June 14, 1921, in the Mexican state of
7 Coahuila, Rogelio Sanchez moved with his family to Fort Hancock in
8 1923, where he grew up in a humble but close-knit community centered
9 around home, school, and church; at a young age, he took jobs in the
10 area's cotton fields, often laboring from sunrise to sunset for a
11 daily wage of 50 cents; he also worked hard in his school studies,
12 and his exemplary grades earned him the title of valedictorian of
13 the 1939 graduating class at Fort Hancock High School; and

14 WHEREAS, At the age of 18, Mr. Sanchez enrolled at Sul Ross
15 State Teachers College in Alpine; he was faced with racial
16 discrimination for the first time in his life during college, and
17 this unfair treatment made him more determined than ever to prove
18 himself; after graduating from college in 1942, this courageous
19 young man answered the call of his country during World War II,
20 serving in the United States Army for 32 months and taking part in
21 operations in the South Pacific; he attained the rank of sergeant
22 before being honorably discharged in December 1945; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanchez returned to Texas and chose to serve his
24 community as a schoolteacher, working in Fort Hancock, Tornillo,

1 and Clint; he took a significant interest in politics, and on
2 December 12, 1959, the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, he
3 announced that he was running for a seat on the Commissioners Court
4 of El Paso County; backed by a group of committed supporters, he
5 conducted a spirited door-to-door campaign and won the election,
6 beginning his 36-year tenure as a county commissioner; inspired by
7 that successful first campaign, he continued to announce his
8 candidacy for reelection on that same date of December 12 for the
9 rest of his career; and

10 WHEREAS, During his years as a county commissioner, Mr.
11 Sanchez supported the construction of many essential facilities,
12 including the R. E. Thomason General Hospital, the El Paso County
13 Library in Fabens, the Woodrow Bean Transmountain Road, the Sun
14 Bowl Stadium at The University of Texas at El Paso, and the new El
15 Paso County Courthouse; he worked to pave streets in new
16 subdivisions and to build low-income housing, and he brought in
17 state grant money to improve water service in the unincorporated
18 colonia settlements in the county; and

19 WHEREAS, Commissioner Sanchez's accomplishments have been
20 honored many times; he was named one of the most influential
21 Hispanics in Texas by *Texas Hispanic Magazine* and described as one
22 of the most significant Mexican American public figures in Texas by
23 The University of Texas at Arlington; in addition, a number of
24 public facilities have been named in his honor, including a Texas
25 Department of Criminal Justice facility, an El Paso County public
26 housing facility, and a complex in Fabens that contains a library
27 and county offices; and

1 WHEREAS, A man who often said that the secret of public
2 service was learning to disagree as agreeably as possible, Rogelio
3 Sanchez forged strong and constructive relationships with his
4 colleagues while carrying forth effective initiatives to benefit
5 his constituents; through his many decades of service, he worked to
6 bridge racial and political differences, and his steadfast efforts
7 had a lasting and positive impact on El Paso County; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor the life of Rogelio Sanchez and offer
11 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife of 56
12 years, Maria Montoya Sanchez; to his children, Michael Sanchez and
13 his wife, Pat, Albert Sanchez, and Maricela Chibli and her husband,
14 Eduardo; to his grandchildren, Aaron and Marissa Chibli; to his
15 brothers, Jesus and his wife, Aurora, and Luis and his wife,
16 Juanita; to his sisters, Josefina Sanchez, Dolores Rivas and her
17 husband, Ignacio, and Irene Batista and her husband, Ruben; and to
18 his other relatives and friends; Mr. Sanchez was preceded in death
19 by his brother, David Sanchez, and by his sisters, Julia Anaya,
20 Connie Chavez, and Maria Vasquez; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Rogelio
24 Sanchez.

Quintanilla
Pickett
Haggerty
Chavez
Moreno

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

H.R. No. 535

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 535 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 14, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House