

By: Deshotel

H.R. No. 888

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Oscar G. Ortiz, mayor of Port Arthur,
2 has been named the 2006 Person of the Year by the Quota
3 International Club of Southeast Texas for his exemplary leadership
4 during and after Hurricane Rita; and

5 WHEREAS, The youngest of eight children, Oscar Ortiz grew up
6 in Port Arthur and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in
7 1955; he went on to serve his country in Korea as a radar specialist
8 with the U.S. Air Force; following his military service, he gained
9 experience in a variety of fields, including law enforcement,
10 carpentry, and business, eventually owning three Gingiss Formal
11 Wear stores and serving on the Gingiss International Advertising
12 Board; along with his wife, Carol, he continues to operate a retail
13 store and is a business development consultant; and

14 WHEREAS, Inspired to enter politics out of allegiance to his
15 hometown, Mr. Ortiz served as the District 3 city council member
16 before being elected mayor in 1998; his first term was
17 characterized by an economic boom, initiated in part by his
18 successful efforts to award a tax abatement to BASF/AtoFina for the
19 construction of a steam cracker unit; he was subsequently reelected
20 twice, and in the years since, he has continued to make job creation
21 a priority with incentives for companies such as Motiva
22 Enterprises, which alone is slated to bring hundreds of jobs to the
23 area; moreover, he was instrumental in passing a property tax
24 freeze for senior citizens and disabled veterans; and

1 WHEREAS, Mayor Ortiz was called on to handle an extraordinary
2 state of emergency in September 2005 when Hurricane Rita hit the
3 Gulf Coast; he oversaw preparation efforts and rode out the storm
4 with emergency personnel; then, in spite of also dealing with
5 tremendous damage to his personal property, he worked tirelessly to
6 direct the city's immense recovery operation; and

7 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mayor Ortiz has enjoyed the
8 support of his large and loving family, including his wife, Carol,
9 his three children, Cheryl, Michael, and Jason, his son-in-law,
10 Dana, his daughters-in-law, Lori and Lisa, and his grandchildren,
11 Jennifer, Justin, Zachary, and Michael; and

12 WHEREAS, Mayor Oscar Ortiz has consistently proven his
13 dedication to the city of Port Arthur through his outstanding
14 leadership, and it is indeed fitting to honor him at this time; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Oscar G. Ortiz on
18 being named 2006 Person of the Year by the Quota International Club
19 of Southeast Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
20 future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mayor Ortiz as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.