

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and
2 meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends
3 of Brigadier General Gilberto S. Pena of Weslaco, who passed away on
4 March 25, 2007, at the age of 71; and

5 WHEREAS, General Pena was born and raised in Weslaco and
6 graduated from Weslaco High School; he enlisted in the Texas Army
7 National Guard in 1954 and saw active duty with the 49th Armored
8 Division during the Berlin Crisis in 1961; and

9 WHEREAS, Subsequently selected for Officer Candidate School,
10 Mr. Pena became a commissioned officer and went on to serve in a
11 number of positions, including those of battalion intelligence
12 officer, battalion operations officer, brigade logistics officer,
13 and commander of the valley infantry battalion; in 1985, during the
14 Honduras/Nicaragua crisis, he served as the coordinating head
15 trainer for the U.S. troops that were providing instruction to
16 Honduran military personnel; later promoted to colonel, he
17 commanded the 1st Brigade, 49th Armored Division, in San Antonio
18 until his retirement in 1996; and

19 WHEREAS, Among the numerous decorations and awards conferred
20 on General Pena were the Meritorious Service Medal, the Texas Medal
21 of Merit, and the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal; Gilberto
22 Pena was posthumously promoted to the rank of brigadier general on
23 April 3, 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to forging an impressive military

1 career, General Pena enjoyed a successful 40-year business career
2 with the New York Life Insurance Company, a vocation on which he
3 embarked in 1964; he qualified for membership in the Million
4 Dollar Round Table, an organization that only six percent of
5 insurance agents in the world are eligible to join, and he served
6 on the board of directors for both the New York Life Council and the
7 Texas Leaders Round Table; and

8 WHEREAS, Esteemed by his fellow citizens, General Pena served
9 on the Weslaco City Commission from 1976 to 1983 and held the office
10 of mayor pro tem from 1979 to 1980; he also served on the City of
11 Weslaco Planning and Zoning Commission, Hidalgo County Appraisal
12 Board, Mid Valley Medical Investment Board of Directors, and Knapp
13 Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors; in addition, he
14 served as president of the Knapp Medical Center Board of Directors
15 and as a member of the City of Weslaco Development Corporation; and

16 WHEREAS, A former president of the Rotary Club and Exalted
17 Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 2057,
18 General Pena additionally chaired the Elks Hoop Shoot youth
19 contest; in recognition of his exemplary civic involvement, he was
20 honored in 2001 as the Outstanding Citizen of Weslaco; and

21 WHEREAS, Gilberto Pena was married to Teresa Gonzalez Pena
22 for more than 40 years, until her passing in 1999, and he was the
23 proud father of four children; and

24 WHEREAS, The life of Gilberto Pena has been an immeasurable
25 blessing to his family, his friends, and his fellow citizens, and he
26 will continue to be held close in the hearts of all who knew and
27 loved him; now, therefore, be it

H.R. No. 1543

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Brigadier General
3 Gilberto S. Pena and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
4 family: to his children, Jeanie Brown, Susie Sanders, Gilbert Pena,
5 Jr., and Marco Pena; to his grandchildren, Trey Lopez, Cody Brown,
6 and Tammy, Dominic, Joshua, Teresa Jean, Emma Dee, and Marco Pena;
7 to his great-grandchildren, Karsen Lopez and Chloe Olivarez; to his
8 sisters and brothers, Dora Cavazos, Rosa Marquez, and Rolando,
9 Felipe, Carlos, Porfirio, Jaime, Roberto, Estella, and Jorge Pena;
10 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Brigadier
14 General Gilberto S. Pena.

Martinez

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1543 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 4, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House