

By: Escobar

H.R. No. 2047

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The outstanding career of a longtime public servant
2 came to a close when the Honorable Simon Salinas stepped down from
3 his position as county judge for Willacy County in January 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, A former migrant worker, Simon Salinas first became
5 involved in community affairs as a young man in the early 1960s;
6 concerned about the quality of water in Sebastian, he helped
7 organize an advocacy group that successfully petitioned for the
8 establishment of the Sebastian Municipal Water District, which he
9 later served as chair; now a state-governed entity known as the
10 Sebastian Utilities District, it serves more than 1,000 area
11 residents; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Salinas continued his civic leadership as a
13 trustee of the Lyford Independent School District for 15 years
14 before being elected county commissioner in 1984 and county judge
15 10 years later; subsequently reelected several times, he
16 distinguished himself through his ability to develop innovative
17 solutions to complex issues; over the course of his 12-year tenure,
18 he enabled the county to access millions of dollars in state
19 community grants, much of which was allocated to environmental,
20 health, and basic infrastructure needs; moreover, he worked to
21 attract prison development, resulting in the creation of over 500
22 jobs, and promoted the development of aerospace technology in the
23 region; and

24 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Judge Salinas has enjoyed the

1 love and support of his wife, the former Estella Villarreal, as well
2 as his four children and two grandchildren; a member of St. Martin
3 Catholic Church, he is already enjoying his retirement cultivating
4 fruits, vegetables, and sorghum on his 12-acre farm; and

5 WHEREAS, For nearly half a century, Simon Salinas has
6 demonstrated vision, integrity, and dedication in his efforts to
7 enhance the quality of life in Willacy County, and he may reflect
8 with justifiable pride on his myriad contributions to his fellow
9 Texans; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate Simon Salinas on his retirement as
12 Willacy County judge and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
13 future; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Judge Salinas as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.