

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 153

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The life of an admired South Texas leader drew to a
2 close on March 28, 2009, with the passing of Manuel Benavidez, Jr.,
3 at the age of 57; and

4 WHEREAS, A founding member of the board of trustees of South
5 Texas College, Mr. Benavidez was appointed by Governor Ann Richards
6 in 1993 and was twice reelected to represent District 1; through the
7 years, he served the board as chair, vice chair, and secretary, and
8 he further benefited South Texas College as a member of the
9 facilities committee and the education and workforce innovation
10 committee; thanks in part to his dedicated efforts, the institution
11 has grown to serve more than 22,000 students at five campuses; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Benavidez also made notable contributions to
13 area high school students through the creation of the Dual
14 Enrollment Medical Science Academy, which offers juniors and
15 seniors an opportunity to earn an associate's degree in biology
16 tuition-free; a tremendous success, the program has produced many
17 graduates, with the May 2008 class receiving more than \$750,000 in
18 scholarships; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Benavidez's distinguished career included
20 service as director of transportation for the Rio Grande City
21 Consolidated Independent School District; he further shared his
22 time with a number of professional associations, holding leadership
23 roles with the Association of Texas Professional Educators, the
24 South Texas Association for Pupil Transportation, and the Texas

1 Association for Pupil Transportation; on the national level, he
2 served as representative of the western region for the Association
3 of Community College Trustees and was twice elected chair of its
4 diversity committee; and

5 WHEREAS, Honored for his outstanding work, Mr. Benavidez was
6 recognized by ACCT with its Lifetime Membership Award and its
7 Western Region Equity Award; moreover, South Texas College named
8 the Starr County Campus rural technology center in Mr. Benavidez's
9 honor in acknowledgement of the instrumental role he played in the
10 creation of that state-of-the-art facility; and

11 WHEREAS, The family, friends, and many admirers of Manuel
12 Benavidez may take solace in the fact that his was truly a life well
13 lived; he was an inspiring and tireless advocate for educational
14 opportunities for all, and the positive contributions he made to
15 South Texas will resonate for many years to come; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby pay tribute to the life of Manuel Benavidez, Jr., and extend
19 deepest sympathy to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it
20 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 and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
24 Manuel Benavidez, Jr.