

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 1244

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Mario E. Ramirez, Jr., of McAllen is
2 being presented with the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award by the
3 Hidalgo County Bar Association on May 7, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Ramirez has presided over the 332nd District
5 Court since the creation of that court in 1983; he earlier served as
6 judge of the 93rd District Court, as judge of Hidalgo County Court
7 at Law No. 2, and as an assistant municipal court judge in McAllen;
8 earlier in his career, he worked as an attorney for the Texas
9 Department of Public Welfare before establishing a solo practice in
10 McAllen, where he also served as an attorney for the Pharr-San
11 Juan-Alamo Independent School District; and

12 WHEREAS, A former director and president of the Hidalgo
13 County Bar Association, Judge Ramirez has also taken a leading role
14 in the State Bar of Texas, serving on the board of directors, on a
15 committee to ensure the representation of the poor in civil
16 matters, and on a task force to ensure the continuation of court
17 operations throughout the state in the event of an emergency; in
18 addition, he has served on a committee charged by the Fifth
19 Administrative Judicial Region of Texas with setting the
20 qualifications for appointment as counsel in death penalty cases
21 and with evaluating the eligibility of attorneys for such an
22 appointment; and

23 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to public service, Judge Ramirez
24 has helped guide the Mental Health Association in Texas as a member

1 of its board, and he has held membership in the Texas Council on
2 Offenders with Mental Impairments; in addition, since 1982 he has
3 served as the overseer of the Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation
4 Department; in recognition of his longtime efforts to address
5 issues related to juvenile offenders, a newly constructed
6 preadjudication facility in Edinburg was dedicated as the Judge
7 Mario E. Ramirez, Jr., Juvenile Justice Center in March 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, Born in Roma, Judge Ramirez is a 1968 graduate of Rio
9 Grande City High School; he received his bachelor's degree from the
10 University of Notre Dame in 1972 and his law degree from St. Mary's
11 University in 1974; and

12 WHEREAS, For more than three decades, this distinguished
13 jurist has embodied the highest standards of his profession and
14 rendered immeasurable service to his community; now, therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Mario E. Ramirez,
18 Jr., on his receipt of the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the
19 Hidalgo County Bar Association and extend to him sincere
20 appreciation for his significant contributions to the Lone Star
21 State; and, be it further

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