

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 1546

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Benito
2 R. Abeytia, a longtime Chicano and civil rights activist, who
3 passed away on February 18, 2009, at the age of 62; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on October 7, 1946, Benito Abeytia was the
5 eldest son of Pedro and Eleanor Abeytia, and he grew up alongside a
6 brother and eight sisters in west Phoenix; on a trip to visit
7 relatives in California, he met Cesar Chavez and was inspired to
8 dedicate his life to political activism from that point forward; an
9 aide to Mr. Chavez, he received valuable training from the leader of
10 the labor movement and was given the opportunity to join the United
11 Farm Workers of America; as a community organizer, Mr. Abeytia was
12 known for being a selfless and dependable team player and for his
13 willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good; he also had a
14 unique ability to relate to the migrant laborers and their plight;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 1974, Mr. Abeytia met a farmworker named Lucia,
17 whom he later married, and through the years, the couple nurtured a
18 close family; Mr. Abeytia instilled in his children the importance
19 of civic involvement, and he taught them that voting was a
20 responsibility and not an option; he never lost sight of the issues
21 faced by the Chicano and farmworker communities, and he remained
22 active in Centro Adelante Campesino; an ardent sports fan, Mr.
23 Abeytia also coached Little League and Pop Warner football, and he
24 was a member of the Arizona Umpire's Association; and

1 WHEREAS, Committed to his community and to social and
2 economic justice, Benito Abeytia was a champion for the
3 underrepresented, and his legacy will forever be treasured by all
4 those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Benito R. Abeytia and
7 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
8 Lucia; to his children, Jaime, Pedro, Relles, Pablo, Benito,
9 Margarita, Eleanor, and Helen; to his mother, Eleanor; to his
10 siblings, Rita, Cecilia, Josie, Armida, Margarita, Sylvia, Belen,
11 Barbara, and Bernie; to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren;
12 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Benito
16 Abeytia.