

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1615

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A 50th wedding anniversary marks a lifetime of love
2 and shared experiences, and Lionel and Sylvia Pena of Edinburg
3 celebrated this joyous occasion on August 22, 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, Both natives of the Rio Grande Valley, Lionel Aron
5 Pena was born in Elsa on October 16, 1935, and the former Sylvia
6 Olivia Alamia was born in Edinburg on August 6, 1938; Mr. Pena
7 joined the National Guard in 1953 and graduated the following year
8 as valedictorian of Edcouch-Elsa High School, while Mrs. Pena
9 graduated from Edinburg High School in 1955; they both went on to
10 attend The University of Texas--Pan American, where she was captain
11 of the cheerleading squad and he was president of the pre-law
12 society, and they were united in matrimony in 1958; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Pena earned a law degree from The University of
14 Texas at Austin and cofounded the firm of Pena, McDonald, Prestia,
15 and Ornelas in Edinburg; a respected local attorney, he has served
16 such clients as the Edinburg Hospital, the City of Edinburg, and the
17 Edinburg Consolidated School District; moreover, he has
18 distinguished himself through his leadership of the Edinburg
19 Chamber of Commerce, the Edinburg Jaycees, and the Lions Club, and
20 he served as mayor pro tempore for six years; today, Mr. Pena
21 continues to contribute to his community as a board member of the
22 Council for South Texas Economic Progress; he retired from the
23 National Guard after attaining the rank of sergeant; and

24 WHEREAS, During her husband's years in law school, Mrs. Pena

1 worked for the secretary of state and the office of the Texas
2 comptroller; she was later employed by Mr. Pena's law firm, and
3 along the way, she resumed her studies at UTPA and earned a master's
4 degree in education; she subsequently enjoyed a career in academic
5 counseling, becoming deputy director of the UTPA Upward Bound
6 program; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Pena have nurtured a fulfilling
8 marriage that has been made even richer with the addition of 6
9 children, Lionel Aron, John Eric, Evie, Mark, Jeff, and Louis
10 Dominic, as well as 25 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren;
11 when they are not spending time with their loved ones, the couple
12 enjoy traveling and attending plays among other pastimes; and

13 WHEREAS, This devoted husband and wife have enjoyed more than
14 five decades of abiding love and affection for one another, and they
15 are among an exceptional group of men and women who can claim such a
16 lasting commitment; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Lionel and Sylvia Pena on their
19 golden wedding anniversary and their many accomplishments and
20 extend to them sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be
21 it further

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