

By: Quintanilla

H.R. No. 1719

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of El Paso lost an admired law
2 enforcement professional with the passing of J. R. Grijalva, on
3 January 31, 2008, at the age of 57; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Grijalva graduated from Stephen F. Austin High
5 School and answered his nation's call to duty with service in the
6 U.S. Air Force; opting to pursue a career in law enforcement, he
7 graduated from the El Paso Police Academy in 1974; he then embarked
8 on an exceptional career with the El Paso Police Department,
9 beginning as a patrol officer and going on to fulfill assignments in
10 many other areas of the department, including traffic, the training
11 academy, detective operations, internal affairs, and airport
12 security; and

13 WHEREAS, This dedicated officer advanced steadily through
14 the ranks, receiving promotions to sergeant, lieutenant, captain,
15 assistant chief, and deputy chief, and he was ultimately placed in
16 command of the department when he was named interim chief; in
17 October of 2000, he retired from the EPPD after 26 distinguished
18 years of service; and

19 WHEREAS, He then devoted himself to a new professional
20 challenge by becoming chief of police for El Paso Community
21 College, and his skill and expertise transformed the school's
22 security personnel into a first-class police force; Chief Grijalva
23 also furthered his education during this period, earning an
24 associate's degree in criminal justice in 2003 and a bachelor's

1 degree in criminal justice administration in 2005, and completing
2 the requirements for a master's degree in 2007; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Grijalva received numerous accolades
4 throughout his career, including three mayoral commendations and
5 recognition by the former sheriff of El Paso County and the Las
6 Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; moreover, he served as
7 director of the executive board of the El Paso Municipal Police
8 Officers Association and has been honored with the creation of a
9 permanent annual scholarship in his memory by ASIS International;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Grijalva enjoyed the
12 love and support of his wife, Patty, with whom he enjoyed 13
13 rewarding years of marriage; he also took great pride in his two
14 sons, Robert and Chad, and his daughter, LaJoi; and

15 WHEREAS, Though his time on this earth ended far too
16 soon, J. R. Grijalva made a meaningful contribution to his
17 community through his dedicated efforts to serve and protect his
18 fellow citizens, and his integrity and achievements will be fondly
19 remembered by his family, friends, and fellow officers for years to
20 come; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of J. R. Grijalva and
23 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
24 Patty Grijalva; to his sons, Robert David Grijalva and Chad Conley;
25 to his daughter, LaJoi Hale; to his sisters, Astrid Grijalva and
26 Suzanne Gomez; to his brother, Robert Anthony Grijalva; to his
27 in-laws, Gary and Ann Marsh; and to his other relatives and many

1 friends; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of J. R.
5 Grijalva.