

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 2168

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Salvador Balcorta of El Paso has distinguished  
2 himself as a tireless civic leader committed to building a stronger  
3 and healthier community for his fellow residents; and

4           WHEREAS, Raised in the Segundo Barrio of El Paso, Mr.  
5 Balcorta was exposed to poverty and inequality at a young age, and  
6 he was compelled to serve his community and to improve the quality  
7 of life for the citizens of the border region; as a teenager, he  
8 began working for the Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, recruiting new  
9 members into the organization; and

10           WHEREAS, La Fe began in 1967 as a makeshift clinic, and it was  
11 a struggling nonprofit institution for many years, but with the  
12 dedication of its staff and the generous support of a number of  
13 local, state, and national entities, including civic leaders,  
14 businesses, and religious groups, the organization grew  
15 significantly; it later became one of the first community health  
16 centers in Texas to receive accreditation, and by 1992, when Mr.  
17 Balcorta became its CEO, La Fe had a clinic with 66 employees and a  
18 \$3 million budget; and

19           WHEREAS, Over the course of his tenure, Mr. Balcorta has  
20 overseen several major developments for the agency, and it now has  
21 an estimated operating budget of \$23 million, as well as a staff of  
22 400 health professionals, artists, educators, social-justice  
23 outreach workers, economic development specialists, and youth  
24 mentors; moreover, La Fe has remained true to its mission of

1 assisting area residents, yet it has also realized its broader  
2 vision of becoming a multiservice organization, and today it  
3 includes 22 medical, housing, social services, and cultural sites  
4 throughout El Paso County; in addition, La Fe has been praised for  
5 its holistic approach, and it has been recognized as a successful  
6 model for comprehensive community improvement; and

7         WHEREAS, Mr. Balcorta has also established La Fe as a major  
8 player in the redevelopment plans for the city of El Paso, and he  
9 envisions further expansion of the services provided by the  
10 organization; among the future projects are a middle school, a  
11 culinary arts training kitchen, a credit union, a legal center, and  
12 a 91-unit apartment complex designed to serve low-income families  
13 and working professionals; and

14         WHEREAS, With the utmost dedication to the people of El Paso,  
15 Salvador Balcorta has helped ensure that the Centro de Salud  
16 Familiar La Fe remains a vital resource for the community, and he  
17 may indeed reflect with great pride on his notable achievements and  
18 contributions; now, therefore, be it

19         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
20 Legislature hereby honor Salvador Balcorta for his outstanding  
21 efforts in behalf of the residents of El Paso and extend to him  
22 sincere best wishes for continued success with his important work;  
23 and, be it further

24         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mr. Balcorta as an expression of high regard by the  
26 Texas House of Representatives.