

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2721

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Juan Aranda, Jr., has distinguished himself as a  
2 dedicated civic leader and labor advocate in El Paso and beyond; and

3 WHEREAS, Born on August 16, 1923, Juan Aranda lost his father  
4 at a young age, and he began working at an ice plant in the evenings  
5 while he attended school during the day to help support his mother  
6 and siblings; Mr. Aranda later served overseas in the U.S.  
7 military, and on his return, he gained employment with Southern  
8 Pacific Railroad, at which time he launched his lifelong  
9 involvement in the labor movement; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Aranda went on to join the American Smelting and  
11 Refining Company (ASARCO), and in 1950, he became a member of the  
12 International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers; he was  
13 active at the local, state, and national levels of the organization  
14 and held various leadership roles, and he participated in the Mine &  
15 Mill National Negotiating Committee, the steering committee, the  
16 political action committee, and many others; after the organization  
17 merged with the United Steelworkers of America, Mr. Aranda served  
18 as president of USWA Local 509 for more than two decades and was  
19 also a vice president of the Texas AFL-CIO, and he has the  
20 distinction of having participated in many steelworker strikes with  
21 Cesar Chavez; in addition, he was a staff representative for USWA  
22 for 17 years, and in this capacity he worked on contracts and  
23 conducted special assignments in Peru and Canada; and

24 WHEREAS, Through the years, this esteemed Texan has received

1 accolades from various groups, including the local Democratic  
2 Party, the United Way, and the Labor Council for Latin American  
3 Advancement, and he has been recognized by former presidents Jimmy  
4 Carter and Bill Clinton; highly regarded in his community, Mr.  
5 Aranda organized a Labor Day breakfast, which has continued for  
6 nearly four decades, and he is known by many as "The General"; he  
7 was also on the board of the United Way for six years, and he has  
8 served as vice president of District 13 of LCLAA; and

9       WHEREAS, A champion for labor, Juan Aranda has demonstrated  
10 an unwavering commitment to ensuring the rights of all people, and  
11 he may indeed take justifiable pride in his notable achievements  
12 and contributions; now, therefore, be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commend Juan Aranda, Jr., for his many years of  
15 service to his community and as a leader in the labor movement and  
16 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and  
17 happiness; and, be it further

18       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Mr. Aranda as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
20 House of Representatives.