

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2999

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of El Paso  
2 businessman and civic leader Richard Nathan Azar, who died on May  
3 21, 2009, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Dick Azar was born in Clayton, New Mexico, on  
5 January 13, 1921, to Nathan and Elizabeth Azar; he was a graduate of  
6 Raton High School and went on to attend Trinidad State Junior  
7 College and New Mexico Military Institute; and

8 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty during World War  
9 II, Mr. Azar joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941; a bomber pilot  
10 in the Pacific Theater, he once flew Eleanor Roosevelt on a Red  
11 Cross tour; and

12 WHEREAS, A successful businessman in El Paso for many years,  
13 Mr. Azar pursued a diversity of interests; the president of  
14 Dickshire Coors Distributing for 34 years, he also spent 20 years in  
15 the maquiladora industry in Juarez; in addition, he helped develop  
16 a number of hotel projects in El Paso, and he owned a restaurant, a  
17 forklift sales business, and a smoke shop; for two years in the  
18 1950s, he owned a minor league baseball team, the El Paso Texans,  
19 now known as the El Paso Diablos; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Azar never lost his passion for flying; he and  
21 his wife, former El Paso mayor Suzie Azar, ran Blue Feather Aero  
22 flight school, and Mr. Azar also helped found the Amigo Airsho in  
23 1981; he continued to work as a flight instructor well into his  
24 eighties; and

1           WHEREAS, A man of strong religious faith and civic  
2 commitment, he was recognized by the Catholic Church in 1961 as an  
3 outstanding Catholic layman; throughout his life, he was active in  
4 dozens of community organizations; and

5           WHEREAS, Dick Azar lived a full and generous life, and  
6 although he is no longer with us, he leaves behind many treasured  
7 memories that will live forever in the hearts of those who knew and  
8 loved him; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Richard Nathan Azar  
11 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
12 wife, Suzanne Azar; to his sons, Richard, Robert, and Greg Azar; to  
13 his daughter, Cheryl McCown; to his stepdaughters, Christine and  
14 Michelle Gardy; to his grandchildren, Richard N. Azar III, Ben,  
15 Bryan, Robert, Steve, and Alan Azar, Kim Shepperd, Michelle and  
16 James McCown, Dena McCown Belvin, Chantal, Gino, and Mateo  
17 Guerrero, and Vinson Ratcliff; to his great-grandchildren,  
18 Richard, Tucker, Carli, Traylor, Zizi, and Abbey Azar, John Ben and  
19 Ava Shepperd, Jay and Josh McCown, and Lauren, Leslie, and Leah  
20 Reynolds; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

21           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dick Azar.