

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Carlos Sandoval for his outstanding work on the documentary film *A Class Apart*; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sandoval served as coproducer and codirector of this exceptional film, which brings to life the struggles of Mexican Americans against racial discrimination after World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, The film is built around the landmark 1951 Supreme Court case *Hernandez v. Texas*, that led to the recognition that Mexican Americans had been denied the full rights and equal protection guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Based on a finding that Mexican Americans had been unconstitutionally excluded from the jury pool, the court granted Pete Hernandez a new trial, and the decision marked an important turning point in the civil rights struggle in United States history; the ruling also led to successful challenges of discriminatory practices in the areas of housing, employment, elections, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, *A Class Apart* tells the story of the first entirely Mexican American legal team to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court and the first time the court dealt with Mexican American civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Through this film, Mr. Sandoval honors the unsung heroes of the day, including the legal team of Gus Garcia, Carlos Cadena, John J. Herrera, and Jimmy DeAnda and the members of the American GI Forum, who also provided invaluable support, and he has added greatly to our understanding of our history and of the struggles of our fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend Carlos Sandoval on his efforts to tell this important story through film and extend to him best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on February 11, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate