

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 456

In Memory  
of  
Simon Salinas

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of former Willacy County Judge Simon Salinas, who died March 9, 2009, at the age of 72; and

**WHEREAS**, Simon Salinas was a community leader and an exceptional public servant who was known for his efforts to bring business and prosperity to Willacy County; he had an unshakable belief in the value of hard work and perseverance that grew out of his experiences growing up as a migrant worker; and

**WHEREAS**, He began his community service in 1961 by becoming an active advocate for a clean water supply for the citizens of Sebastian; by 1965, he was serving as chairman of the board of the newly formed Sebastian Municipal Water District; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition, he served on the board of trustees of the Lyford Independent School District and was elected county commissioner for Willacy County in 1984; he served as a commissioner until 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, He was elected Willacy County judge in 1994 and was consistently reelected until his retirement in 2007; during his tenure, Judge Salinas was instrumental in leading the county from a \$1.2 million budget deficit to a financially sound, balanced budget within a two-year period; he gained access to more than \$15 million in state grants and steered much of it toward improving the environmental, health, and basic infrastructure needs of colonia residents; and

**WHEREAS**, A forward-thinking county judge who helped bring economic development to his community, Judge Salinas played an important role in the development of a prison and a detention center in Willacy County; his efforts on behalf of the community also included laying out a plan to bring the aerospace technology industry to the county; and

**WHEREAS**, An exemplary gentleman who was known for his integrity and tenacity, Judge Salinas was respected in the community for his hard work and his accomplishments, and he will be missed by many; and

**WHEREAS**, Simon Salinas gave unselfishly to others, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Simon Salinas; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Simon Salinas.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 18, 2009, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate