

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 858

In Memory
of
J. R. Grijalva

WHEREAS, The citizens of El Paso lost an admired law enforcement professional with the passing of J. R. Grijalva, on January 31, 2008, at the age of 57; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grijalva graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School and answered his nation's call to duty with service in the United States Air Force; opting to pursue a career in law enforcement, he graduated from the El Paso Police Academy in 1974; he then embarked on an exceptional career with the El Paso Police Department, beginning as a patrol officer and going on to fulfill assignments in many other areas of the department, including traffic, the training academy, detective operations, internal affairs, and airport security; and

WHEREAS, This dedicated officer advanced steadily through the ranks, receiving promotions to sergeant, lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, and deputy chief, and he was ultimately placed in command of the department when he was named interim chief; in October of 2000, he retired from the El Paso Police Department after 26 distinguished years of service; and

WHEREAS, He then devoted himself to a new professional challenge by becoming chief of police for El Paso Community College, and his skill and expertise transformed the school's security personnel into a first-class police force; Chief Grijalva also furthered his education during this period, earning an associate's degree in criminal justice in 2003 and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration in 2005 and completing the requirements for a master's degree in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Chief Grijalva received numerous accolades throughout his career, including three mayoral commendations and recognition by the former sheriff of El Paso County and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; moreover, he served as director of the executive board of the El Paso Municipal Police Officers Association and has been honored with the creation of a permanent annual scholarship in his memory by ASIS International; and

WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Grijalva enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Patty, with whom he enjoyed 13 rewarding years of marriage; he also took great pride in his two sons, Robert and Chad, and his daughter, LaJoi; and

WHEREAS, Though his time on this earth ended far too soon, J. R. Grijalva made a meaningful contribution to his community through his dedicated efforts to serve and protect his fellow citizens, and his integrity and achievements will be fondly remembered by his family, friends, and fellow officers for years to come; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of J. R. Grijalva and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Patty Grijalva; to his sons, Robert David Grijalva and Chad Conley; to his daughter, LaJoi Hale; to his sisters, Astrid Grijalva and Suzanne Gomez; to his brother, Robert Anthony Grijalva; to his in-laws, Gary and Ann Marsh; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of J. R. Grijalva.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 6, 2009, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate