

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1109

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to Leonel Castillo on the occasion of his 70th birthday, on June 6, 2009, and the naming of the Leonel Castillo Academic Center in his honor; and

WHEREAS, The Houston Independent School District is naming the new East Early College High School building the Leonel Castillo Academic Center in honor of one of the city's most notable citizens, who has done so much for his community, both locally and on the national level; and

WHEREAS, The school opened in August of 2006 as an internal charter school and has maintained an Exemplary rating in each of its first two years of existence; its students can attend Houston Community College and receive two years of college credit or an associate's degree while earning their high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, Leonel Castillo graduated cum laude from Saint Mary's University in San Antonio in 1961 and earned a master of social work degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967; in his early career, he worked as a human resources supervisor with the Development Program of the Neighborhood Centers Day Care Association, and later he became the director of the Catholic Council on Community Relations in Houston; and

WHEREAS, He became the first Mexican American to be elected to a citywide office in Houston when he was elected controller for the city in 1970; he earned national recognition for his efforts with Mexican American advocacy groups and his work on race and discrimination issues; and

WHEREAS, He helped establish the Houston International University in 1970, which provided alternative post-secondary education for Mexican American students; he became the first Hispanic to direct the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Department of Justice when he was named commissioner by President Jimmy Carter in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Since his retirement from public office, Mr. Castillo has continued to serve in leadership roles in many civic, educational, and governmental organizations; and

WHEREAS, It is indeed appropriate that the Houston Independent School District recognize Leonel Castillo for his service and leadership and his many contributions to his community; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby join the Houston Independent School District in honoring Leonel Castillo for his distinguished service and extend to him best wishes for a wonderful 70th birthday celebration; and, be it further

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

Gallegos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate