

By: Coleman

H.C.R. No. 15

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of esteemed civic leader Pete Almodova Gallego, Jr., of
3 Alpine on March 4, 2010, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Alpine on February 17, 1925, Mr. Gallego was
5 the son of Pete Russell Gallego and Victoria Almodova; he came of
6 age during World War II and served in the United States Army in the
7 Pacific theater, and he earned the Victory and American Theater
8 ribbons, a Good Conduct Medal, and a Bronze Star, among other
9 honors; during his freshman year at Sul Ross State University, he
10 met Elena Peña, and the couple married the following year; they
11 later became the parents of four treasured children, Imelda,
12 Rebecca, Pete, and Robert; and

13 WHEREAS, The first member of his family to graduate from
14 college, Mr. Gallego earned his bachelor's degree in business
15 administration; he joined the family restaurant business, then
16 known as the Green Cafe, and began serving his community in a
17 variety of leadership roles; helping Latinos gain access to banking
18 services, he shared his accounting skills with a credit union
19 established by a local Catholic priest; he became the first
20 treasurer of Our Lady of Peace Credit Union, which operated for many
21 years from the dining room table in his home and then from his cafe
22 so members could stop by in the evening after their work; he later
23 served as president, chair, and member of the board as the credit
24 union grew to become the Alpine Community Credit Union, an

1 institution with more than \$10 million in assets; and

2 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan became the first Latino trustee
3 of the Alpine Independent School District in 1959 and was elected to
4 four more consecutive three-year terms; he played a key role in the
5 desegregation of area schools and in the construction of a new high
6 school, the addition of a wing to Central Elementary School, the
7 remodeling of the old high school into a united junior high, and the
8 closure of Centennial School; although some customers boycotted his
9 restaurant to protest integration, Mr. Gallego remained steadfast;
10 the school closure and the construction of a new interstate also
11 affected the business, and he moved it across town, becoming the
12 first Latino to own commercial property on Holland Avenue; and

13 WHEREAS, Gallego's Mexican Food Restaurant won a loyal
14 following among college students in its new location, and
15 Mr. Gallego expanded its operations, shipping chiles rellenos,
16 tamales, and masa to stores around the state; through the years, he
17 helped many young people achieve their dreams by giving them jobs
18 and donating money for their college funds; in 2001, four years
19 after his retirement, he was named Paul Forcheimer Business Person
20 of the Year in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the
21 community; he continued to volunteer for worthy causes and enjoyed
22 spending time with his family, maintaining his properties, and
23 riding his mowing tractor; and

24 WHEREAS, A man of great generosity, integrity, and
25 determination, Pete A. Gallego is deeply missed by the host of
26 people whose lives he touched, but his legacy of achievement
27 continues to resonate in the community he loved and served so well;

1 now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas,
3 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Pete
4 Almodova Gallego and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones: to
5 his wife of more than six decades, Elena Peña Gallego; to his
6 daughters, Imelda Gallego Garcia and her husband, Jose Garcia,
7 R.Ph., and Rebecca P. Gallego, M.D.; to his son, the Honorable Pete
8 P. Gallego, and his wife, Maria Elena Ramon; to his grandchildren,
9 Maria Imelda, Maria Elena, and Briana Garcia, Cristina P. Gallego,
10 and Nicolas Miguel Ramon Gallego; and to his other relatives and
11 many friends; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
15 Pete A. Gallego, Jr.