

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 73

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Mario E. Ramirez has made immeasurable
2 contributions to the provision of improved health care in South
3 Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, After completing his residency in 1950, Dr. Ramirez
5 returned to Roma, his birthplace, to open that town's first family
6 clinic, and for some years he was the only practicing physician in
7 Starr County; in 1958, he founded Roma's first hospital, the Manuel
8 Ramirez Memorial Clinic and Hospital, named for his grandfather;
9 later, while also serving as county judge, he was instrumental in
10 the creation of the Starr County Memorial Hospital and in the
11 establishment of a hospital taxation district to fund its
12 operation; when the new county hospital opened in Rio Grande City in
13 1975, Dr. Ramirez relocated to that community; and

14 WHEREAS, This esteemed physician continued to practice
15 family medicine until 1995, when he assumed the post of vice
16 president for South Texas Programs at The University of Texas
17 Health Science Center at San Antonio; during his tenure in that
18 office, he launched an initiative to encourage students in South
19 Texas to pursue careers in the health sciences, and to date, more
20 than 2,000 young Texans have participated in the Med Ed Program;
21 after eight years with the health science center, Dr. Ramirez
22 retired in 2007; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez has worked tirelessly to draw attention
24 to the needs of the medically underserved in South Texas, and to

1 that end, he has held numerous leadership positions in national and
2 statewide organizations and committees; to cite just two, he has
3 served as president of both the Texas Medical Association and the
4 Texas Academy of Family Physicians; in addition, he has long worked
5 to advance the cause of higher education in this state, and his
6 efforts in that regard have earned him gubernatorial appointments
7 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and The University
8 of Texas System Board of Regents; and

9 WHEREAS, The recipient of a host of accolades, Dr. Ramirez
10 has been recognized by Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon,
11 Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush; moreover, the establishment of
12 the Dr. Mario E. Ramirez Distinguished Professorship in Family and
13 Community Medicine at the UT School of Medicine at San Antonio and
14 the naming of the medical library at the Regional Academic Health
15 Center in Harlingen in his honor bear testament to the magnitude of
16 his achievements; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary career, Dr. Mario
18 Ramirez has served the residents of South Texas with the utmost
19 skill, compassion, and determination, and his efforts have
20 benefited untold numbers of individuals; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Dr. Mario E.
23 Ramirez on his exceptional contributions to health care in South
24 Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
25 happiness; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Dr. Ramirez as an expression of high regard by the

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1 Texas House of Representatives.