

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 117

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former Starr County judge Blas Chapa of Mission
2 passed away on May 10, 2010, at the age of 79, leaving his circle of
3 family and friends to cherish their happy memories of time spent in
4 his company; and

5 WHEREAS, Blas Chapa was born in El Refugio on November 29,
6 1930, to Jose Maria Chapa and Francisca Balderas Chapa; known to his
7 friends as "Blasito," he learned the value of hard work at an early
8 age, laboring in produce and cotton fields and walking to school in
9 Rio Grande City; and

10 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in 1948, Judge
11 Chapa answered his nation's call to duty and joined the U.S. Army;
12 he served as a medic in Japan and Korea, where he saw action during
13 the Korean War, earning a number of commendations; and

14 WHEREAS, He returned to Texas and resumed his education,
15 working his way through Edinburg Junior College by driving a bus;
16 while attending college, he met his future wife, Socorro Vera, and
17 the couple went on to share a loving marriage until her death;
18 together they were blessed with three children, Blas, Irasema, and
19 Ileana; and

20 WHEREAS, During the course of a career in education, Judge
21 Chapa worked as a teacher and a principal while continuing his
22 studies, eventually earning a bachelor's degree from Pan American
23 University; he then entered politics, serving as the district clerk
24 of Starr County and for two terms as Starr County judge; along the

1 way, he was also in business as a bookkeeper; and

2 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a loyal friend, Judge Chapa
3 distinguished himself as a gregarious and active member of his
4 community, and he is remembered with deep affection by all who knew
5 him; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
7 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
8 Judge Blas Chapa and extend sincere condolences to the members of
9 his family: to his son, Blas Chapa, Jr., and his wife, Clelia; to
10 his daughters, Irasema Maxwell and her husband, Harold, and Ileana
11 Vicinaiz and her husband, Victor; to his sisters, Trinidad Chapa,
12 Marcy Reyes and her husband, Ruben, and Maria Bazan; to his brother,
13 Jose Chapa, and his wife, Petra; to his grandchildren, Brianna
14 Maxwell, Blas Chapa III, John Edward Maxwell, Victor V. Vicinaiz
15 II, Sara I. Vicinaiz, and Miguel Chapa; and to his other relatives
16 and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Blas
20 Chapa.