

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 219

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Ector County South Side Senior Citizens Center
2 is being renamed and dedicated in memory of the late Salvador M.
3 Guerrero of Odessa at a ceremony taking place on January 28, 2011,
4 which would have been Mr. Guerrero's 92nd birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, An important community institution that is integral
6 to the lives of many area residents, the senior center serves
7 breakfast and lunch in partnership with Meals on Wheels, offers
8 bingo, movies, and arts and crafts, and encourages health and
9 wellness through exercise classes and regular blood pressure
10 screenings; and

11 WHEREAS, Honoree Salvador Montoya Guerrero was born in 1919
12 in Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico; his family fled their homeland
13 during the Mexican Revolution and eventually settled in San Angelo;
14 after attending San Angelo Junior College, Mr. Guerrero served in
15 the United States Army during World War II; he participated in the
16 Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day and earned numerous
17 decorations, including five Battle Stars and the Croix de Guerre,
18 ultimately attaining the rank of line corporal; and

19 WHEREAS, On returning to Texas, Mr. Guerrero continued his
20 education, worked as a dry cleaner and presser, and pursued careers
21 in broadcasting and politics; he conducted radio programs in
22 Spanish in the Permian Basin area and later cohosted the *Mexico*
23 *Tejano* television show, and he further distinguished himself as an
24 Ector County commissioner from 1971 to 1978; and

1 WHEREAS, Active in a variety of civic groups, Mr. Guerrero
2 helped to organize the Odessa Boys and Girls Clubs and the local
3 American GI Forum and its auxiliary and junior branches; in
4 addition, he served as a charter member of the Odessa Basin Lions
5 Club and as a Boy Scout troop master, and he participated in the
6 Odessa Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Lodge, and
7 the local American Legion and VFW posts; he was president of the
8 Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations in 1962 and
9 received the Mayor's Citizenship Award and Freedom Medal in 1978;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Guerrero's civic contributions extended to the
12 community center that will now bear his name; he served as
13 supervisor of the original facility from 1958 to 1970 and played a
14 prominent role in renovation work that was completed in the 1980s; a
15 man of many talents, he also found time during his busy life to
16 teach naturalization classes in the Adult Basic Education program
17 at Odessa College, and he was inspired to write a memoir after
18 taking a course on Chicano literature at The University of Texas of
19 the Permian Basin; his book, *Memorias: A West Texas Life*, was
20 published in 1991; and

21 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Guerrero enjoyed the
22 love and support of his wife, Maria Flores Guerrero, and his
23 children, Raul, Christina, Alfredo, Richard, Raquel, and Edwardo;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Although the people of Odessa lost a committed civic
26 leader with the death of Sal Guerrero on December 8, 2009, the
27 senior center named in his honor will serve as a lasting reminder of

1 the many contributions made by this esteemed man to Ector County and
2 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
4 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Salvador M.
5 Guerrero Senior Center in Odessa; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Mr. Guerrero's family as an expression of high regard
8 by the Texas House of Representatives.