

By: Pena

H.R. No. 381

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Emilio De Los Santos III has been chosen as the 2010
2 recipient of the Dan Garcia Memorial Achievement Award presented by
3 the Veterans County Service Officers Association of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, This prestigious annual honor recognizes the
5 accomplishments of a county veterans service officer or assistant
6 officer who has performed above and beyond the call of duty, who has
7 been involved in all aspects of veterans' affairs, and who has been
8 active in the community the officer serves; honorees must also
9 display a record of continuing education and a patriotic spirit;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. De Los Santos earned the commendation as a
12 result of his notable work to assist veterans in South Texas in
13 achieving improved access to medical care and other services; he
14 has been a leader in the movement to establish a U.S. Department of
15 Veterans Affairs hospital in the Rio Grande Valley so that veterans
16 who live in the area do not need to make a five-hour trip to San
17 Antonio for appointments; moreover, he helped galvanize local
18 support for Proposition 8, a Texas constitutional amendment passed
19 in 2009 to authorize funding for the construction and operation of
20 VA hospitals; with the Veterans Alliance of the Rio Grande Valley,
21 he has contributed to the creation of a VA health care center in
22 Harlingen, and he continues to press for a full-service facility in
23 the region; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. De Los Santos has been the director of the

1 Hidalgo County Veterans Service Office since 2002; in that role, he
2 helps veterans and their family members in preparing claims for
3 compensation, insurance, pensions, educational benefits, and
4 medical care, and he helps them with appearances at Board of
5 Veterans' Appeals hearings; he also raises awareness about programs
6 and benefits available for former service members through public
7 speaking engagements and organizes outreach initiatives such as
8 veteran enrollment fairs and welcome-home celebrations for
9 returning military personnel; and

10 WHEREAS, Committed to keeping elected officials in Austin and
11 Washington informed of the needs of those he serves, Mr. De Los
12 Santos has testified before the Texas Legislature and the United
13 States Congress and promoted state legislation related to a
14 homestead exemption for disabled veterans; he is a member of the
15 regional board of directors of the Veterans County Service Officers
16 Association of Texas and received the Outstanding Service Officer
17 of the Year award in 2007; in addition, he was recently appointed by
18 President Obama to the Selective Service System Local Board, and in
19 2010 he was chosen to be part of the VISN 17: VA Heart of Texas
20 Health Care Network Veterans Advisory Board; and

21 WHEREAS, A U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam
22 War era, Mr. De Los Santos was employed for three decades by the
23 Weslaco Independent School District; he holds a master's degree in
24 education and has also worked as Region One Adult Basic Education
25 Service Center director; he has further distinguished himself as
26 president of the Weslaco Mid Valley Lions Club, as commander of VFW
27 Post 10464 in Weslaco, and through his involvement in Weslaco youth

1 sports leagues; and

2 WHEREAS, The dedication and enthusiasm Emilio De Los Santos
3 has brought to his pursuits have made a positive difference in the
4 lives of numerous Rio Grande Valley residents who valiantly served
5 their nation in the armed forces, and his efforts in their behalf
6 are truly deserving of recognition; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby honor Emilio De Los Santos III on being chosen as
9 the recipient of the 2010 Dan Garcia Memorial Achievement Award
10 presented by the Veterans County Service Officers Association of
11 Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success;
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Mr. De Los Santos as an expression of high regard by
15 the Texas House of Representatives.