

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 512

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 death of Donato P. Rodriguez, Jr., on December 28, 2010, at the age
3 of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Donato Rodriguez was born in Del Rio on February 13,
5 1933, to Donato Rodriguez, Sr., and Maria Paredes Rodriguez; after
6 attending The University of Texas, the University of Houston, and
7 Sul Ross State University, he went on to earn a master of education
8 degree from Antioch College; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career in education,
10 Mr. Rodriguez fought for social justice and civil rights, doing his
11 part to make the world a better place for the poor and less
12 fortunate; he was a schoolteacher until 1966, when he became
13 director of the Community Action Program of Val Verde County, one of
14 President Lyndon Johnson's antipoverty initiatives; in 1971 he
15 began working with the Southwest Educational Development
16 Laboratory in Austin, assessing the educational needs of low-income
17 children across the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodriguez joined the Texas Education Agency in
19 1975, having been recruited to help ensure that schools followed
20 federal desegregation orders and complied with laws barring racial
21 and sexual discrimination; he subsequently became director of the
22 Equal Education Opportunity Division at the TEA, the post from
23 which he retired in 1993; and

24 WHEREAS, The same energy and passion for building a brighter

1 future that defined his professional work also drove Mr. Rodriguez
2 in his life as a private citizen, and he gave generously of his time
3 and talents in behalf of numerous civic organizations; and

4 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, this esteemed Texan enjoyed
5 the love and companionship of his wife, Teresita, to whom he was
6 married for more than 57 years; their life together was further
7 enriched by three children and four grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, Among the talents that Mr. Rodriguez perfected, to
9 the delight of his family and friends, were those of cooking and
10 storytelling; in his leisure time he also took great pleasure in
11 travel, and he and his wife visited many of the world's wonders,
12 including the Great Wall of China, Machu Picchu, and the Mayan and
13 Aztec pyramids; and

14 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a dedicated public servant,
15 Donato Rodriguez will be deeply missed, but the compassion and
16 integrity with which he lived his life will forever inspire all who
17 had the good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Donato P.
20 Rodriguez, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of
21 his family: to his wife, Teresita Rodriguez; to his son, Donato
22 Rodriguez III, and his wife, Dana; to his daughter, Linda Donovan,
23 and her husband, Jim; to his grandchildren, Donato Rodriguez IV,
24 Javier Rodriguez, Jimmy Donovan, and Alex Donovan; to his sister,
25 Alma Garcia, and her husband, Carlos; to his brothers-in-law, Louis
26 Cardwell, Thomas Cardwell and his wife, Libby, and David Cardwell
27 and his wife, Peggy; to his great-aunt, Belia Guerra; and to his

1 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Donato P.
5 Rodriguez, Jr.