

By: King of Zavala

H.R. No. 655

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Dilley lost one of their most esteemed
2 native sons and public servants with the death of former Chief of
3 Police Santos Martinez on April 12, 2009, at the age of 57; and

4 WHEREAS, Santos Martinez was born in Dilley on May 24, 1951,
5 to Prajades and Margarita Martinez; the youngest of 10 children, he
6 grew up working in the watermelon fields; after graduating from
7 Dilley High School, he joined the Frio County Sheriff's Department
8 as a dispatcher and soon thereafter decided to run for public
9 office; he was subsequently elected as the county constable for
10 Precinct 4; and

11 WHEREAS, While serving in this role, Officer Martinez
12 undertook a dangerous undercover assignment at the request of
13 federal law enforcement agencies that had been investigating a
14 South Texas drug cartel for 10 years; he quickly infiltrated the
15 group with his easygoing nature, and his efforts led to multiple
16 arrests, bringing down the cartel in a matter of days; and

17 WHEREAS, He became chief of the Dilley Police Department in
18 1994, and during nearly 15 years on the job, he earned the respect
19 and admiration of local, state, and federal officers alike;
20 moreover, Chief Martinez was known for his loyalty to the city and
21 for his easy rapport with citizens, making him not only a highly
22 effective peace officer but also a beloved figure in the community;
23 despite struggling with diabetes, Chief Martinez continued to work
24 as long as he was able, retiring only shortly before he died; and

1 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, he enjoyed the love and
2 support of his wife, Teresa, and the couple were blessed with a
3 daughter, Bianca, and two grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, Santos Martinez exemplified the highest ideals of
5 his profession, carrying out his duties with compassion,
6 dedication, and courage, and he will be forever remembered with
7 deep appreciation by the citizens he served and by all those whose
8 lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Santos Martinez and
11 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
12 wife, Teresa Martinez; to his daughter, Bianca Marshall, and her
13 husband, Casey; to his grandsons, Jeremiah H. Martinez and Elijah
14 Santos Martinez Marshall; and to his other relatives and many
15 friends; and, be it further

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