

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 732

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gonzalo Garza was recognized by the Austin  
2 History Center in conjunction with its exhibit *Mexican American*  
3 *Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County*; and

4 WHEREAS, Honoring the important contributions made by  
5 Mexican Americans to Central Texas, the Austin History Center and  
6 its association joined with the Austin Public Library to organize  
7 the show, which ran from August 21, 2010, through January 16, 2011;  
8 *Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County*  
9 celebrated the pioneering achievements of 32 remarkable men and  
10 women and provided the public with an opportunity to learn more  
11 about their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, One such individual, Dr. Gonzalo Garza, was honored  
13 for his achievements in education; the son of migrant farm workers,  
14 Dr. Garza was born on January 10, 1927, in New Braunfels; he started  
15 elementary school at the age of 10 and dropped out of high school at  
16 the age of 17, when he answered his nation's call to duty during  
17 World War II and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps; realizing the  
18 value of an education, he completed high school after returning  
19 from the war, and he began working on his bachelor's degree at  
20 St. Mary's University; he again answered his nation's call during  
21 the Korean War, when he received the Bronze Star for valor and the  
22 Purple Heart; after his discharge from the marines he finished his  
23 bachelor's degree, completed a master's degree at Our Lady of the  
24 Lake University, and earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction

1 from The University of Texas; and

2           WHEREAS, During his long and distinguished career in public  
3 education, Dr. Garza served as the first Mexican American  
4 superintendent of the San Marcos and Eagle Pass Independent School  
5 Districts, and he was the first Mexican American to hold the post of  
6 associate superintendent with the Austin ISD; he has received  
7 numerous accolades for his achievements and contributions,  
8 including the Golden Apple Award from the National Hispanic Caucus  
9 of School Board Members and recognition as the Hispanic Educator of  
10 the Year by the Austin ISD Hispanic Heritage Committee; he retired  
11 from the Austin ISD in 1992, and in 1998 the school district named  
12 the new Gonzalo Garza Independence High School in his honor; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Gonzalo Garza has made a positive difference in  
14 his community, and his outstanding accomplishments are a source of  
15 pride and inspiration to many people; now, therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Gonzalo Garza on his selection  
18 as a Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County and  
19 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

20           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Dr. Garza as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
22 House of Representatives.