

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In the 1950s, the golf team of San Felipe High School
2 in Del Rio battled adversity and defied expectations to become the
3 best in Texas, and Higinio "Gene" Vasquez was an important member of
4 that storied squad; and

5 WHEREAS, The team got its start after J. B. Pena became the
6 superintendent of the San Felipe Independent School District in the
7 mid-1950s, and he and a friend introduced golf as a school sport at
8 San Felipe High; they were surprised and pleased to discover that
9 there were some very talented golfers among the students in the
10 then-segregated school, including Mr. Vasquez and the other players
11 that joined the Mustangs golf team; and

12 WHEREAS, These students had learned much about the game while
13 working as caddies at the exclusive San Felipe Country Club, a
14 course that they were initially prohibited from playing; determined
15 to take part in the sport, several of these aspiring athletes
16 decided in 1954 to build their own course, which they dubbed the El
17 Llanito Country Club; it was, by necessity, a rather crude design:
18 one hole surrounded by multiple tees with a "green" that was
19 actually made of caliche instead of grass; nonetheless, the boys
20 used the hardscrabble course to hone their skills through long
21 hours of practice, often playing until after dark; and

22 WHEREAS, After the harsh conditions of El Llanito, the team
23 members found that competing on regulation courses as part of
24 school matches was relatively easy, and they quickly established

1 themselves as winners, even as they had to ignore verbal abuse and
2 other forms of discrimination; the San Felipe Mustangs were
3 regional champs in 1956 and finished second to Ranger High in the
4 state championships; in 1957, the team qualified once more for the
5 finals and traveled to the Austin Country Club to battle for the
6 title, where they were the only minority players in the tournament;
7 there, Mr. Vasquez and his teammates turned in an outstanding
8 performance, shooting a combined 643; this bested runner-up
9 Shamrock High by 35 strokes and earned San Felipe the state title;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez hailed from a background that was quite
12 different from that experienced by most state champion golfers of
13 his era; born in Del Rio in 1940, he, his parents, and his three
14 sisters were migrant farm workers for many years during the 1950s,
15 and he fought his way onto the Mustangs roster in 1957 despite being
16 a left-handed player who had to learn to golf with right-handed
17 clubs; after graduation, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in
18 education from Sul Ross State College and taught in the San Felipe
19 Independent School District for more than 10 years; he then entered
20 the real estate business and continues to work in that field today;
21 he lives in Del Rio and still enjoys golf, crediting the sport for
22 having had a very positive impact on his life; and

23 WHEREAS, Through talent, determination, and ingenuity, Gene
24 Vasquez and the other members of the Mustangs golf team overcame
25 difficult circumstances to become state champions, and their
26 achievement is a continuing source of pride for the residents of Del
27 Rio and an inspiration for all who have heard their story; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature hereby honor Gene Vasquez for his contributions to the
4 title-winning San Felipe High School golf team of 1957 and extend to
5 him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Gallego

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

H.R. No. 893

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 893 was adopted by the House on March 24, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House