

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1008

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 their story is told in the new book *Mustang*
4 *Miracle*, by Humberto Garcia; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, After the harsh conditions of El Llanito, the team
22 members found that competing on regulation courses as part of
23 school matches was relatively easy, and they quickly established
24 themselves as winners, even as they had to ignore verbal abuse and

1 other forms of discrimination; the San Felipe Mustangs became
2 regional champs in 1956 and finished second to Ranger High in the
3 state championships; in 1957, the team qualified once more for the
4 finals and traveled to Austin for the tournament, where they were
5 the only minority players to compete; the Mustangs turned in an
6 outstanding performance, shooting a combined 643; this bested
7 runner-up Shamrock High by 35 strokes and earned San Felipe the
8 state title; and

9 WHEREAS, In *Mustang Miracle*, Mr. Garcia, a San Felipe High
10 School alumnus, attorney, and avid golfer, tells the tale of Felipe
11 Romero, Higinio "Gene" Vasquez, Joe Trevino, Lupe Felan, and Mario
12 Reyes Lomas, and the resulting saga of perseverance in the face of
13 adversity is one that is sure to resonate beyond Del Rio and the
14 Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
16 Legislature hereby honor the members of the San Felipe High School
17 golf team of 1957 along with their biographer, Humberto Garcia, and
18 extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the members of the team and Mr. Garcia as an expression
22 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.