

By: Lozano

H.R. No. 1014

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Juan Manuel Escobar, county judge of
2 Kleberg County, has compiled an exceptional record of public
3 service; and

4 WHEREAS, A seventh-generation Tejano, Judge Escobar was born
5 and raised in Escobares, a Starr County community that was founded
6 by his ancestor Jose Maria Escobar in 1753; while a student at Roma
7 High School, he excelled at both academics and athletics and served
8 as president of the student council; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in 1969, Judge
10 Escobar enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and saw combat in Vietnam;
11 within 15 months of entering the armed forces, he was promoted to
12 the rank of sergeant; his military awards include the Purple Heart,
13 Combat Action Ribbon, and Presidential Unit Citation; in addition,
14 he was selected for membership in the prestigious U.S. Marine Corps
15 Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C., and while part of
16 that unit, he served as a pallbearer for presidents Harry S. Truman
17 and Lyndon B. Johnson; and

18 WHEREAS, Following his discharge in 1973, Judge Escobar
19 returned to the Rio Grande Valley and worked as a Starr County
20 deputy sheriff while earning a bachelor's degree in biology from
21 Pan American University; he joined the U.S. Border Patrol in 1978
22 and enjoyed a stellar 25-year career with that agency, rising to
23 hold the post of senior special agent with an undercover unit, the
24 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force; and

1 WHEREAS, In May 2003, Juan Escobar was elected to the Texas
2 House of Representatives to fill the unexpired term of
3 Representative Irma Rangel; during his tenure, which extended to
4 2009, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Irma Lerma
5 Rangel College of Pharmacy, located on the campus of Texas A&M
6 University--Kingsville, and in the creation of the Kenedy County
7 Groundwater Conservation District; he also worked to address the
8 problem of beach erosion, and his legislative agenda showed him to
9 be a forceful advocate for veterans, teachers, the public schools,
10 higher education, and human services; he served as vice chair of the
11 Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations Committee and as a
12 member of the Border and International Affairs, Criminal
13 Jurisprudence, House Administration, and Land and Resource
14 Management Committees; and

15 WHEREAS, Elected county judge in November 2010, Juan Escobar
16 has set as his first priorities the creation of more housing in the
17 county, the boosting of high school graduation rates, and the
18 improvement of county infrastructure; he also plans to be active in
19 fostering economic growth and in promoting ecotourism; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge Escobar has long worked for the betterment of
21 his community through his involvement in local organizations; among
22 the many groups to benefit from his talents have been the boards of
23 trustees of the Brooks County Independent School District and the
24 Kingsville ISD, both of which he has served as president;
25 additionally, he is a lay minister and a former administrator for
26 St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Kingsville, and he is affiliated
27 with, and has been a commander of, a number of veterans

1 associations; and

2 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has been named Legislator of the
3 Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Sierra Club of Texas,
4 and the Texas affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union; his
5 outstanding work has also drawn tributes from the Texas Border
6 Sheriff's Coalition, American GI Forum, and Texas Association of
7 Mexican American Chambers of Commerce; and

8 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Judge Escobar enjoys the
9 love and support of his wife of 39 years, Rosie, his daughter,
10 Yvonne Yvette, and his son and daughter-in-law, Eduardo Eden and
11 Marleena; and

12 WHEREAS, Over a span of four decades, Juan Escobar has
13 provided skillful, forward-looking leadership in behalf of his
14 fellow citizens, and he continues tirelessly to seek new avenues
15 for advancing the common good; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
17 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Juan Manuel Escobar for
18 his myriad contributions to the Lone Star State and extend to him
19 sincere appreciation for his distinguished career in public
20 service; and, be it further

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