

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1053

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Zapata County are celebrating the  
2 dedication of Bravo Park and the unveiling of a marker honoring its  
3 namesake, Judge Manuel B. Bravo; and

4           WHEREAS, Born at El Ambrado Ranch in Hidalgo County on May 2,  
5 1901, Manuel Box Bravo began his career in public service in the  
6 Hidalgo County courthouse tax collector's office; after moving to  
7 Zapata, he ran a successful write-in campaign for county judge in  
8 the 1936 general election; for the next two decades, he served his  
9 fellow citizens with great diligence in that office; and

10           WHEREAS, Judge Bravo instituted a number of vital measures to  
11 professionalize county operations; his sound fiscal management  
12 allowed the county to significantly improve its educational system,  
13 and he established a veterans vocational training school; in  
14 addition, he persuaded taxpayers to approve the first bond election  
15 in county history; and

16           WHEREAS, This visionary leader solicited government  
17 assistance during droughts, lobbied for the establishment of a Soil  
18 Conservation Service Office for Zapata County, and supported his  
19 close friend Lyndon B. Johnson's 1949 farm bill, which provided for  
20 telephone service to rural communities; when the construction of  
21 the International Falcon Reservoir required the inundation of the  
22 entire town of Zapata, plus five neighboring communities, he fought  
23 for just compensation for area residents; in addition, he insisted  
24 that the International Boundary and Water Commission set aside land

1 for the development of public parks for family gatherings and  
2 recreation; and

3 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to social justice, Judge Bravo  
4 helped establish the Edinburg Council of the League of United Latin  
5 American Citizens in the late 1920s and served as its president; he  
6 was a force in the civil rights movement as well and joined others  
7 in condemning racial discrimination in Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, Following his retirement as county judge in 1957, he  
9 continued to serve his beloved community; he was a longtime member  
10 of the Knights of Columbus, and in 1973, he served on the local  
11 citizens' advisory committee to the Texas Constitutional Revision  
12 Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, Although Judge Bravo passed away on September 18,  
14 1984, his myriad contributions continue to resonate in South Texas  
15 and beyond; the spot chosen for Bravo Park, part of a historic land  
16 grant given by the King of Spain, has long been used for picnics,  
17 carnivals, and other festivities, and it is indeed fitting that his  
18 memory be honored in a place where members of the community come  
19 together in fellowship and celebration; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of Bravo Park and pay  
22 tribute to the life and legacy of Judge Manuel B. Bravo.