

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1238

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rancher and civic leader James Edwin Peterson of Rio
2 Grande City contributed greatly to the betterment of his community
3 until his death on April 30, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, James Peterson was born in McAllen on November 29,
5 1944, to Arvid Verner and Dorothy Peterson; he graduated from Rio
6 Grande City High School in 1963 and went on to earn his bachelor's
7 degree from Texas A&I University in 1967; and

8 WHEREAS, After teaching school for a year in Alice, Mr.
9 Peterson began a career in farming and ranching that lasted nearly
10 four decades; he was first employed by Starrco Farms, a produce
11 wholesaler, and then joined Suntex Dairy, where he worked until his
12 retirement; he was also the owner and operator of Peterson
13 Beefmasters in Starr County; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Peterson was actively
15 engaged in the life of Rio Grande City and Starr County; the
16 president of the Starr County Fair Association, he also chaired the
17 fair's Livestock and Validation Committees; in addition, he was
18 director of the Medina Electric Cooperative and a member of the
19 board of the Starr County Appraisal District; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Peterson's involvement in agricultural
21 organizations included service as president of the Starr County
22 Farm Bureau, as treasurer of the board of the Rio Grande Growers
23 Co-op, as a member of the Farm Service Agency County Committee, and
24 as chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the

1 Cooperative Extension Program of Prairie View A&M University; and

2 WHEREAS, A man of strong religious faith, he served as
3 assistant Sunday school superintendent and chair of the building
4 and grounds committee for First Baptist Church of Rio Grande City;
5 his devotion to assisting area youth was reflected in his 28-year
6 tenure as a football official, and he was president of the Rio
7 Grande Valley Federation of the Southwest Football Officials
8 Association; he also helped guide young lives as a Little League
9 coach, a Cub Scout den father, and a 4-H leader; and

10 WHEREAS, After his death, the 2007 Starr County Fair was
11 dedicated to his memory, with the theme "James Peterson--Farmer,
12 Rancher, Volunteer"; moreover, the fairgrounds contain two
13 tributes to this respected citizen: the James Peterson Memorial
14 Building and a plaque dedicated in his honor by the San Isidro
15 Independent School District; in 2006, the Texas Farm Bureau
16 posthumously gave him its prestigious Pioneer Award for his many
17 contributions to agriculture; and

18 WHEREAS, James Peterson dedicated himself to the service of
19 others during his years on this earth, and his legacy continues to
20 resonate in the community he was proud to call home; now, therefore,
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James Edwin Peterson
24 and acknowledge his enduring work in behalf of the people of Rio
25 Grande City and Starr County.