

By: Lozano

H.R. No. 1568

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Alex G. Leal retired from his position as head
2 football coach at Raymondville High School in December 2010,
3 drawing to a close a remarkable 31-year career in which he became
4 the all-time winningest coach in the Rio Grande Valley; and

5 WHEREAS, Renowned for his achievements in guiding young
6 athletes, Coach Leal also distinguished himself as a classroom
7 instructor and principal after beginning his career as an
8 elementary teacher in the Raymondville Independent School District
9 in 1960; he became an assistant coach six years later and moved up
10 to the positions of head football coach and athletic coordinator
11 for the Bearkats in 1973; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the following decades, this skilled mentor
13 built an exemplary record while coaching at Raymondville, Rio
14 Grande City, Port Isabel, McAllen, and Harlingen South High
15 Schools, and in each of those assignments he also held the post of
16 athletic coordinator or athletic director in addition to that of
17 head coach; and

18 WHEREAS, Though he initially chose to retire from coaching in
19 2000, when he stepped down from his position at Harlingen South, he
20 opted to return to Raymondville ISD in 2006 to once again lead the
21 Bearkats; he served as coach for the next five seasons and will
22 remain the district's athletic director, continuing a career in
23 education that has spanned 51 years; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Leal's achievements have made him a

1 distinguished figure in Texas high school sports; his overall
2 record stands at 224 wins, 105 losses, and 6 ties, and he won or
3 shared 11 district championships and took his team to the playoffs
4 in 18 of his 31 years as a head coach; among his numerous honors are
5 his induction into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall
6 of Honor and the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame and his
7 selection as the winningest Hispanic football coach in the nation
8 by *Hispanic* magazine in 2000 and as the number two coach of the
9 millennium by the *McAllen Monitor*; moreover, he was named coach of
10 the year 13 times, most recently in 2010, his final year overseeing
11 the Bearkats, when he was awarded that accolade as the top coach in
12 District 31-3A; and

13 WHEREAS, Beyond the wins and awards, however, a more profound
14 measure of Alex Leal's success is the positive role he has played in
15 the lives of the hundreds of student-athletes with whom he has
16 worked; for four and a half decades, he helped teach those young
17 Texans important lessons about teamwork, commitment, and
18 responsibility that had value far beyond the gridiron, and his work
19 will continue to be respected and remembered for many years to come;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby honor Alex G. Leal on his retirement from a long
23 and accomplished career as a high school football coach and extend
24 to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Coach Leal as an expression of high regard by the Texas

H.R. No. 1568

1 House of Representatives.