

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1675

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lucy Rede Franco, a longtime, revered educator in
2 the Presidio Independent School District, is being posthumously
3 inducted into the first Pioneers and Leaders of the State of Texas
4 Hall of Honor at the Presidio middle school bearing her name on May
5 6, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, The oldest of five children, Mrs. Franco was born to
7 Eusebio and Mary Ann Rede on February 3, 1902, in Shafter; she
8 inherited a great love of learning from her father and her mother,
9 who is believed to have been the first person of Mexican descent to
10 teach English in the Big Bend area; a native of Redford, Mary Ann
11 Rede began tutoring Shafter residents in English for two dollars a
12 month in 1895, when she was 17; and

13 WHEREAS, During Mrs. Franco's youth in Shafter, she spent two
14 years at Sacred Heart Academy, where her academic ability impressed
15 the Irish mother superior; Mother Tarcisus gave her extra
16 schoolwork and coached her for the examination that would enable
17 her to obtain a teaching certificate; and

18 WHEREAS, In the summer of 1920, Mrs. Franco became the first
19 Hispanic student to enroll at Sul Ross State Normal College; after a
20 year's study at Sul Ross, she passed the teacher qualifying exam and
21 embarked on a lifelong career in education; her first assignment
22 was a one-teacher school in Redford, where she taught 60 students in
23 grades one through eight; and

24 WHEREAS, Several years after assuming that post, the young

1 schoolmistress met Manuel Franco, a resident of Durango, Mexico,
2 and the couple exchanged wedding vows on December 31, 1924, in
3 Redford; their marriage was blessed with eight children, all of
4 whom became college graduates; and

5 WHEREAS, Following the birth of her children, Lucy Rede
6 Franco taught for a while in Shafter, but when the silver mines
7 there closed, she and her husband took up farming in Redford; they
8 later moved to Presidio, where Mrs. Franco once more returned to
9 teaching; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1956, at the age of 54, Mrs. Franco received her
11 bachelor's degree from Sul Ross State College; four years later,
12 she won the Mother of Texas award, an accolade presented by the
13 American Mothers Committee, and as part of that recognition, she
14 attended a banquet in New York City celebrating the winners from
15 every state; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Franco taught for 33 years in the Presidio ISD,
17 ultimately retiring in 1972; in 1985, eight years after her death,
18 the Presidio ISD paid tribute to her outstanding service by naming
19 the Lucy Rede Franco Middle School in her honor; in 2007, family
20 members established the Lucy Rede Franco Scholarship Endowment and
21 Fund, which provides grants to Presidio High School graduates
22 enrolled at Sul Ross; and

23 WHEREAS, Franco family members from across the state are
24 gathering at Lucy Rede Franco Middle School on May 6, 2011, to
25 participate in the induction ceremony for Mrs. Franco, which is
26 being sponsored by The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day
27 Foundation of El Paso; and

1 WHEREAS, An exceptionally dedicated and gifted educator,
2 Lucy Rede Franco enriched the lives of countless children in
3 Presidio County, and she inspired in all who knew her a deeper
4 appreciation of learning and of service to others; now, therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize May 6, 2011, as Lucy Rede Franco Day in
8 acknowledgment of Mrs. Franco's significant contributions to the
9 Lone Star State; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Franco family members as an expression of high regard
12 by the Texas House of Representatives.