

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 67

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Distinguished activist Father Jose Alejandro
2 Solalinde Guerra has inspired countless people through his
3 humanitarian endeavors; and

4 WHEREAS, Since April 2013, Father Solalinde has been
5 traveling across the United States with a caravan of victims turned
6 advocates to raise awareness of the plight of Central American
7 migrants; the caravan is called "Opening Doors to Hope," and
8 members of the group recount their experiences as migrants, discuss
9 such issues as the historical roots of migration, and educate the
10 public about human rights violations and criminals who prey on
11 those in transit; and

12 WHEREAS, Father Solalinde was born in the State of Mexico in
13 1945 and joined the Knights of Columbus in his youth; after
14 finishing his secondary education under the auspices of the Society
15 of Jesus, he studied classical literature at the High School
16 Institute of the Carmelite Fathers of Guadalajara before attending
17 the Institute of Ecclesiastical Studies, where he studied
18 philosophy and theology; he was ultimately ordained by the bishop
19 of Toluca; Father Solalinde holds a bachelor's degree in history
20 from the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, as well as a
21 bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in systemic
22 family therapy; and

23 WHEREAS, After beginning his career in the Diocese of Toluca,
24 Father Solalinde requested a transfer to the poorest part of

1 Oaxaca, where he assisted the indigenous Mixtec people;
2 subsequently transferred to the Diocese of Tehuantepec, he led
3 several churches, offered family therapy, and established a shelter
4 for the orphaned, abandoned, and abused; while working in the
5 diocese, he learned about the kidnappings and other dangers faced
6 by migrants passing through on freight trains, and in 2007, he
7 founded a refuge, Hermanos del Camino, or "Brothers of the Road";
8 the haven has served thousands, and despite death threats from
9 criminal organizations, he has continued to work tirelessly to ease
10 the suffering of the most vulnerable and to champion their cause;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This admired leader was presented with the 2012
13 National Human Rights Award by the chair of the National Human
14 Rights Commission and by the president of Mexico, Enrique Pena
15 Nieto; his numerous accolades also include the 2011 Emilio Krieger
16 Medal, the Peace and Democracy award from the National Association
17 of Democratic Lawyers, and the Pages Llergo Award for Democracy and
18 Human Rights; and

19 WHEREAS, Father Solalinde has made a positive difference in
20 the lives of innumerable people through his selfless devotion to
21 the disenfranchised, and his courageous efforts have focused
22 international attention on the human cost of immigration policies;
23 now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
25 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Father Jose
26 Alejandro Solalinde Guerra for his exceptional contributions in
27 behalf of human rights and extend to him sincere best wishes for

1 continued success in his important mission; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Father Solalinde as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.