

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 151

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Starr County commissioner Abel Noe  
2 Gonzalez, Jr., on September 14, 2011, at the age of 61, brought a  
3 great loss to the loved ones and fellow citizens of this respected  
4 public servant; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on July 2, 1950, to Abel N. and Maria Elia  
6 Gonzalez, Abel Gonzalez was the oldest of five children; he  
7 graduated from Rio Grande City High School in 1968 and went on to  
8 earn a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M  
9 University in 1972; and

10           WHEREAS, The following year, he exchanged wedding vows with  
11 his high school sweetheart, the former Aida Graciela Pena; the  
12 couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned nearly four  
13 decades, and they became the parents of four children, Melinda,  
14 Abel, Jorge, and Marta; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzalez enjoyed a successful business career  
16 in Rio Grande City, where he worked for the Mobil and Shamrock oil  
17 companies and also operated the family ranch, El Macho; at the time  
18 of his passing, he had been the commissioner for Precinct 4 of Starr  
19 County for more than a decade and a half, and he was widely admired  
20 by his colleagues and constituents for his vital contributions to  
21 improving services and infrastructure in the area; among the  
22 projects that he championed were the establishment of a food pantry  
23 that serves hundreds of Rio Grande City residents and the creation  
24 of a satellite fire station; moreover, he played a central role in

1 planning a community center for the San Ysidro colonia; and

2 WHEREAS, Before joining the county commissioners court,  
3 Mr. Gonzalez served for 12 years on the board of the Rio Grande City  
4 Consolidated Independent School District and was elected to several  
5 terms as board president; he was a director for the Starr County  
6 Industrial Foundation as well, and he was instrumental in  
7 developing an industrial park to house manufacturing and warehouse  
8 facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, An enthusiastic supporter of local athletic teams,  
10 Mr. Gonzalez spent countless Friday nights cheering the gridiron  
11 achievements of his sons, whom he first watched play the game and  
12 later coach it; he delighted in hosting family gatherings at his  
13 home and ranch, as those occasions allowed him to spend time with  
14 his children and grandchildren while discussing his favorite  
15 topics, football and family; and

16 WHEREAS, Abel Gonzalez selflessly dedicated himself to the  
17 community he loved, and the legacy of good works that he leaves  
18 behind will continue to have a positive influence in the lives of  
19 area residents for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
22 of Abel Noe Gonzalez, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to all those  
23 who mourn his passing; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Abel Noe  
27 Gonzalez, Jr.