

By: Martinez Fischer

H.C.R. No. 125

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Charlie Gonzalez of San Antonio
2 concluded his tenure in the United States House of Representatives
3 in January 2013, having served constituents in the 20th
4 Congressional District with great distinction for seven terms; and

5 WHEREAS, First elected to the U.S. house in 1998, Congressman
6 Gonzalez succeeded his father, Henry B. Gonzalez, who held the seat
7 for more than three decades; Charlie Gonzalez rose quickly through
8 the ranks to become one of the Democratic Party's most eloquent
9 spokesmen, particularly on judicial matters, civil rights,
10 education, and minority affairs; and

11 WHEREAS, Congressman Gonzalez worked tirelessly in behalf of
12 a cleaner environment, Wall Street reform, and more accessible
13 health care for Texans; as chair of the Congressional Hispanic
14 Caucus, he advocated for the growing Latino community and sought to
15 address comprehensive immigration reform and issues that
16 disproportionately affected members of the working class; he served
17 on a host of committees, including the House Energy and Commerce
18 Committee, a panel with oversight of telecommunications, oil, gas,
19 and refining; and

20 WHEREAS, With an extensive background in the judiciary,
21 Congressman Gonzalez demonstrated an unyielding commitment to
22 diversity in federal courts; he championed participation by all
23 Americans in the 2000 census, and he was subsequently named
24 co-chair of the Democratic Caucus Census Task Force; in addition,

1 he co-chaired the Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Election
2 Reform and the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights
3 Institute, an initiative to ensure that elections at all levels are
4 conducted in compliance with civil rights, voting rights, and
5 election laws; and

6 WHEREAS, This dynamic San Antonio native was a technical
7 sergeant in the Texas Air National Guard from 1969 to 1975, and he
8 briefly taught fifth grade before embarking on a legal career; for
9 10 years, he was in private practice, and he then became a municipal
10 court judge and county court at law judge before winning election to
11 the district court; he served as a state district court judge from
12 1989 to 1997, and updating courtroom procedures and working to
13 reduce the growing backlog of domestic violence cases are among his
14 achievements in that role; and

15 WHEREAS, Through his vision, dedication, and exceptional
16 leadership in Congress, Charlie Gonzalez has contributed
17 immeasurably to the betterment of his community, his state, and his
18 nation, and as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life,
19 it is indeed fitting to commend him for his noteworthy public
20 service; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby congratulate the Honorable Charlie Gonzalez on his
23 retirement from the United States House of Representatives and
24 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his
25 endeavors; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Congressman Gonzalez as an expression of high regard

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1 by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.