

By: Alvarado

H.R. No. 72

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a devoted public servant and
2 powerful advocate for the common good with the death of Senator
3 Mario Valentin Gallegos, Jr., on October 16, 2012, at the age of 62;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A lifelong Houstonian, Mario Gallegos was born on
6 September 8, 1950, and grew up in the Magnolia Park neighborhood; he
7 graduated from Milby High School and later completed his bachelor's
8 degree at the University of Houston-Downtown; at the age of only 18,
9 he joined the Houston Fire Department, where he served with
10 distinction for 22 years before retiring as a senior captain; it was
11 during this time, when he was active in the firefighter's union,
12 that he developed the interest in politics that eventually led him
13 from the red engines of the fire station to the pink dome of the
14 State Capitol; and

15 WHEREAS, Beginning his notable 22-year tenure in the Texas
16 Legislature when he was elected to the house of representatives in
17 1990, he became the first Hispanic to represent Harris County in the
18 state senate when he took the oath of office in 1995; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Gallegos consistently supported measures
20 that he saw as crucial for the well-being of the predominantly
21 working-class residents of his district, and he was the author of a
22 number of bills relating to economic development and community
23 revitalization; he was a strong voice for the University of Houston
24 and was always a leader in issues of concern to emergency services

1 and law enforcement personnel; and

2 WHEREAS, To say nothing would keep Senator Gallegos from
3 defending the causes in which he believed was proved an
4 understatement in an unforgettable event in 2007; just weeks after
5 receiving a liver transplant, and against his doctor's orders, he
6 returned to Austin and had a hospital bed installed in the office of
7 the senate sergeant-at-arms to ensure that he could cast his vote
8 during debate on a voter ID bill; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Gallegos received many awards over the
10 years; he was honored by the Texas State Association of Fire
11 Fighters and was named Legislator of the Year by the Justice of the
12 Peace and Constables Association of Texas and Senator of the Year by
13 the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas; he also received
14 the Sierra Club's State Legislative Service Award for Clean Air,
15 the Texas Women's Political Caucus Good Guy Award, and the Texas
16 Municipal League's Distinguished Legislative Service Award;
17 additionally, he was named the Fiestas Patrias Distinguished
18 Hispanic of the Year and the Mexican-American Bar Association of
19 Texas' Legislator of the Year; and

20 WHEREAS, Mario Gallegos was committed to creating a brighter
21 future for people throughout the Lone Star State; while it is
22 difficult to imagine the legislature without him, his legacy as a
23 tireless champion of his constituents' interests remains to inspire
24 those he left behind; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the Honorable Mario Valentin
27 Gallegos, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his

1 family: to his wife, Theresa Gallegos; to his children, Ali
2 Templer, Melissa Gallegos, and Mario Elias Gallegos; to his
3 grandchildren, Jake Gallegos, Hollis Templer, Jesse Gallegos,
4 Teresa Hernandez, and Cristina Hernandez; to his mother, Olga
5 Gallegos; to his sisters and brothers, Maria Gallegos, Olga McGee,
6 Lillian Villarreal, Joel Gallegos, Michael Gallegos, and Cynthia
7 Trevino; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Senator
12 Mario Gallegos.