

By: Deshotel

H.R. No. 1386

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Felix Lugo of Houston demonstrated great patriotism
2 and determination during his participation in the 2013 Gusher
3 Marathon in Beaumont, running the entire 26.2-mile race carrying
4 the American flag; and

5 WHEREAS, A running coach and avid long-distance enthusiast,
6 Mr. Lugo has competed in a total of 50 marathons, and in 27 of the
7 events he has proudly held the Stars and Stripes aloft while
8 completing the route; he began this practice in January 2002 to show
9 support for his country following the 9/11 terrorist attacks; this
10 army veteran hails from a family with a proud history of military
11 service, and his father's harrowing recollections of combat during
12 the Korean War were another factor that convinced Mr. Lugo to begin
13 flying Old Glory in his races; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite being a skilled athlete, Mr. Lugo faces
15 challenging physical demands as part of this undertaking; the
16 flag's weight and wind resistance make a difficult race even
17 tougher, and that was particularly true in the Gusher Marathon;
18 struggling against winds that gusted up to 25 miles per hour, he was
19 forced to drop to the back of the race field; the exhausting
20 conditions made him consider quitting, but he persevered; and

21 WHEREAS, After six hours of running, Mr. Lugo still had
22 several miles to go, but officials agreed to keep the course open
23 while he covered the final distance; as he approached the finish
24 line, he was greeted by the inspiring sight of additional American

1 flags being flown by members of the Patriot Guard Riders; the
2 motorcycle group had waited patiently to honor him for his actions,
3 and its members presented him with a certificate and a
4 commemorative coin after the race was completed; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Lugo has also received heartfelt expressions of
6 support in other events he has taken part in, with spectators
7 enthusiastically cheering him on as he passes; in addition, other
8 runners frequently offer to help him carry the flag, but in most
9 cases he declines, believing it to be his personal mission to
10 complete the race with the banner in hand; he is aided in his task by
11 his loving wife, Sylvia, who provides him with water, other
12 supplies, and encouragement every step of the way; and

13 WHEREAS, The final results of the 2013 Gusher Marathon show
14 that Felix Lugo was the last runner to finish the race, but the
15 remarkable dedication that he demonstrated while paying tribute to
16 this nation's military service members has defined him as nothing
17 less than a true champion; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
19 Legislature hereby honor Felix Lugo for his inspiring performance
20 in the 2013 Gusher Marathon and commend him for his efforts to honor
21 current and former members of the armed forces; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Lugo as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.