

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ever since his own military service in the 1960s,
2 musician and music teacher Ram Chavez of Corpus Christi has
3 dedicated countless hours to honoring and supporting his fellow
4 veterans; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from Miller High School in 1964,
6 Mr. Chavez performed with his Tejano and pop band, Ram and the
7 Impalas, before answering his nation's call to duty during the
8 Vietnam War and joining the U.S. Army; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez served as a combat medic with Company D,
10 12th Regiment, 4th Battalion, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and he
11 often risked his life while tending to his wounded comrades; for his
12 courage under fire, he earned the Silver Star and the Bronze Star
13 with Valor; and

14 WHEREAS, Following his return to Texas and civilian life,
15 Mr. Chavez embarked on a four-decade career as a music teacher and
16 band director; in 1986, seeing the need for live music at events
17 honoring veterans, he founded the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi;
18 made up of veterans of every branch of the armed forces, the group
19 includes postal workers, businesspeople, medical personnel,
20 refinery workers, school employees, and retirees; and

21 WHEREAS, This inspiring ensemble has performed at a variety
22 of events in Corpus Christi and for hundreds of ceremonies honoring
23 veterans, including the 1994 Veterans Day program in Washington,
24 D.C., when it appeared before 100,000 veterans at the Vietnam

1 Veterans Memorial; the band has also played for three presidents
2 and two Texas governors, including Governor Ann Richards on the
3 occasion of her inauguration; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the band, Mr. Chavez
5 has devoted much effort to archiving information about veterans,
6 filling a binder with lists of those who have made the ultimate
7 sacrifice for their country and providing more than 160 photos of
8 South Texas service members killed in action to the permanent
9 archive of the Education Center at the Wall in Washington, D.C.; and

10 WHEREAS, Americans owe a profound debt of gratitude to those
11 who serve our nation, and Ram Chavez's gift of music and remembrance
12 to our men and women in uniform, past and present, is truly
13 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor Ram Chavez for his efforts in behalf of
16 veterans and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
17 success with his important work; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mr. Chavez as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.