

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1422

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Humberto Barrera is a notable figure in Texas
2 boxing, whose accomplishments continue to be celebrated more than
3 45 years after his last appearance in the ring; and

4 WHEREAS, "Lefty" Barrera became an accomplished fighter
5 while he was still a student at Robstown High School, finishing
6 second in the 1959 national Golden Gloves tournament and returning
7 the next year to win the title as an 18-year-old; after his victory
8 at the 1960 event, a fan encouraged him to try out for the Olympics,
9 and though he had previously been completely unaware of the event,
10 he decided to take part in the U.S. Olympic boxing trials that were
11 scheduled to take place the following month; and

12 WHEREAS, Facing other top fighters in the nation, he scored a
13 series of victories to earn a spot in the flyweight finals; with a
14 trip to the Olympics on the line and nursing several injuries,
15 Mr. Barrera won a hard-fought match to secure his place on the 1960
16 U.S. team, a squad that also included light heavyweight Cassius
17 Clay, who would later take the name Muhammad Ali; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Barrera won his first two bouts at the Olympic
19 Games in Rome despite injuring his right thumb, but in his third
20 bout he was judged the loser in a controversial split decision that
21 incited loud booing from the spectators and prompted the
22 U.S. coaches to file a formal protest; he finished his amateur
23 career with a record of 42 wins and 4 losses; and

24 WHEREAS, Turning professional in 1961, Mr. Barrera spent

1 four more years in the ring; he registered 19 wins, nine by
2 knockout, against just three losses, and one of the highlights of
3 his pro career was beating the world's No. 3-ranked bantamweight;
4 highly sought after by promoters for the consistent quality of his
5 fights, he regularly drew large crowds to watch him display his
6 boxing skills before he hung up his gloves in 1965 to become an
7 engineer; and

8 WHEREAS, In recognition of his exceptional achievements,
9 Mr. Barrera was named a member of the inaugural class of the Corpus
10 Christi Boxing Hall of Fame, and he continues to hold the
11 distinction of being the only boxer from the Robstown area to have
12 fought as an Olympian; he chronicled his experiences in the book *My*
13 *Journey Through the 1960 Olympic Games*; and

14 WHEREAS, Lefty Barrera distinguished himself as an athlete of
15 rare ability who represented his nation in the world's premier
16 international sports showcase, and his achievements remain a source
17 of pride for residents of the Texas Gulf Coast; now, therefore, be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
20 Legislature hereby honor Humberto Barrera for his achievements as
21 an amateur and professional boxer and extend to him sincere best
22 wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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