

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 1465

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a revered elder statesman
2 with the death of the Honorable Raymond L. Telles, Jr., on March 8,
3 2013, at the age of 97, and his passing has deeply saddened admirers
4 across the Lone Star State and beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, A trailblazer in government and international
6 diplomacy, Raymond Telles was the first Hispanic mayor of a major
7 American city and the first Hispanic United States ambassador; he
8 led El Paso from 1957 to 1961, and his effective management paved
9 the way for other Latinos in politics across the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Ambassador Telles was born in El Paso to Ramon and
11 Angela Telles on September 5, 1915; after graduating from Texas
12 Western College, he began his career with the United States
13 Department of Justice; he answered his nation's call to duty in 1941
14 with service in the United States Air Force and eventually attained
15 the rank of colonel; along the way, he served as chief of the
16 lend-lease program for South and Central America and as a military
17 aide to Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, and
18 for his accomplishments, he received the Order of the Southern
19 Cross from Brazil, Columbian wings, the Mexican Legion of Merit,
20 and the Peruvian Flying Cross; and

21 WHEREAS, Following World War II, Colonel Telles returned to
22 his hometown, where he was elected to the first of four terms as El
23 Paso County Clerk; he was recalled to military service during the
24 Korean War and commanded the U.S. Air Force 67th Tactical and

1 Reconnaissance Group, for which he earned the Bronze Star Medal;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, This remarkable Texan overcame prejudice and
4 persevered to win a hard-fought 1957 mayoral campaign, and his
5 skill, expertise, and collaborative management style won him an
6 uncontested second term; in 1961, he left the office of mayor when
7 he was appointed ambassador to Costa Rica by President John F.
8 Kennedy; he was subsequently named chair of the U.S.-Mexico border
9 commission by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and he went on to serve
10 as head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during both
11 the Nixon and Ford administrations; throughout his tenure in the
12 federal government, he was a valued advisor and friend to both
13 Republican and Democratic presidents; and

14 WHEREAS, While at home in the halls of power, Ambassador
15 Telles was naturally modest, and he unfailingly credited those who
16 helped him accomplish his goals; he was, in turn, a wise and caring
17 mentor who personally helped to nurture succeeding generations of
18 Latino leaders; he was named Mayor Emeritus of El Paso in 2006, and
19 he was recognized for a lifetime of achievement by the Hispanos
20 Triunfadores Awards program in 2008, among myriad other accolades;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Telles shared a fulfilling marriage of 68 years
23 with the love of his life, Delfina Navarro, and he was devoted to
24 his daughters, Cynthia and Patricia, and his two grandsons, Raymond
25 and Daniel; and

26 WHEREAS, Through his commitment to progress and his selfless
27 dedication to public service, Raymond Telles made a lasting,

1 positive difference in the world around him, and his achievements
2 will continue to inspire his fellow Texans and all Americans for
3 many years to come; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Raymond
6 L. Telles, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of
7 his family: to his daughters, Dr. Cynthia Telles and Dr. Patricia
8 Telles-Irvin; to his grandsons, Raymond David Jimenez and Daniel
9 Irvin-Telles; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
13 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
14 Honorable Raymond L. Telles, Jr.