

By: Wu

H.R. No. 1822

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their  
2 memories of the Reverend Ben Sanchez Riojas of Houston, who passed  
3 away on May 2, 2012, at the age of 94; and

4 WHEREAS, Ben Riojas was born in San Antonio to Bernabe and  
5 Guadalupe Riojas on November 5, 1917, and he moved with his family  
6 to Houston at an early age; he was a teenager when he formed a  
7 musical group with a friend, Jesse Blanco, and together they  
8 composed a number of popular Spanish-language gospel songs; during  
9 those early years, Mr. Riojas also worked construction, and he  
10 helped build the San Jacinto Monument; and

11 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Riojas  
12 joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and was stationed in San Antonio at the  
13 time of the attack on Pearl Harbor; he went on to train as a ranger  
14 with the 2nd Infantry Division, and he was wounded during the  
15 Normandy invasion in 1944; after recuperating in London, he  
16 returned to combat and was wounded again, spending the last days of  
17 his tour of duty in Paris before returning home to Texas; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1946, Mr. Riojas married Rosie Perez, whom he had  
19 met before the war when his band performed at a Galveston church;  
20 they were blessed with three children, Amelia, Benny, and Gina; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Riojas pastored a number of  
22 churches together in the Houston area until taking on what was  
23 supposed to be a temporary position at La Hermosa Christian Church  
24 in south Houston in the mid-1960s; they ended up serving that

1 congregation faithfully for 40 years; Reverend Riojas also worked  
2 at Nabisco until his retirement in 1981; and

3 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family and his faith, Ben Riojas  
4 lived a rich and purposeful life, and cherished memories of time  
5 spent in his company will long endure in the hearts of all who knew  
6 and loved him; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend Ben  
9 Sanchez Riojas and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
10 family: to his children, Amelia Cardona and her husband, Paul,  
11 Benny Riojas and his wife, Lucy, and Gina Gauthier and her husband,  
12 Robert; to his grandchildren, Rafael Gonzales and his wife, Kim,  
13 Catarina Cron and her husband, Richard, Charissa Montoya and her  
14 husband, Juan, Benjamin Riojas and his wife, Emily, and Sydnee and  
15 Mackenzie Gauthier; to his great-grandchild, Sofie Riojas; to his  
16 brothers, Tony, Ruben, and Samuel Riojas and their wives; to his  
17 sister, Jovita Cavazos; and to his other relatives and friends;  
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ben Riojas.