

By: Rodriguez of Bexar

H.R. No. 1969

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of San Antonio lost an admired champion of
2 public education with the passing of Demetrio Pena Rodriguez on
3 April 22, 2013, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, A longtime resident of the city's west side,
5 Mr. Rodriguez worked tirelessly to improve the Edgewood
6 Independent School District and to promote greater access to
7 high-quality education for students of all income levels and ethnic
8 backgrounds throughout Texas; he was a founding member of the
9 Edgewood District Concerned Parents Association, which protested
10 inadequate facilities, staffing, and resources; in 1968, he joined
11 with seven other parents to file a class action lawsuit in federal
12 district court, and he became the namesake for *Rodriguez v. San*
13 *Antonio ISD*, a landmark case in the history of education financing
14 reform; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodriguez remained engaged in school reform
16 issues long after his five children had graduated, and his
17 endeavors helped pave the way for positive change in Texas and
18 beyond; dedicated to social justice, he also worked in behalf of
19 such organizations as the American G.I. Forum, the League of United
20 Latin American Citizens, and the Mexican-American Betterment
21 Organization; he was a veteran of the military and was employed at
22 Kelly Air Force Base as a sheet metal worker; and

23 WHEREAS, A humble and unassuming man, Demetrio Rodriguez
24 earned the high regard of his fellow citizens through his vision,

1 courage, and determination, and his selfless commitment to public
2 education will forever remain a source of inspiration to all who
3 were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Demetrio Pena
6 Rodriguez and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
7 family: to his wife of more than 50 years, Belen Rodriguez; to his
8 children, David, Alex, Carlos, and Patricia; to his 12
9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; to his sister, Esperanza
10 Velasquez; to his brother, Concepcion Rodriguez; and to his many
11 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Demetrio
15 Rodriguez.