

By: Canales

H.R. No. 2459

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Aaron Pena, Jr., rendered exceptional
2 service to his fellow citizens throughout his decade-long tenure in
3 the Texas House of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Pena was raised in Edinburg and
5 graduated from The University of Texas at Austin; he earned his
6 juris doctorate from Texas Southern University before embarking on
7 a career in law; he first won election to the Texas House in 2002 and
8 went on to represent the citizens of House District 40 during the
9 78th through the 82nd Legislatures; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Pena served on numerous committees,
11 helping to develop policy on a wide range of issues; in his third
12 term, he became chair of the House Committee on Criminal
13 Jurisprudence, and he subsequently chaired the Committees on
14 Technology and Emergency Preparedness; he was pioneering in his use
15 of Internet media to increase government transparency and better
16 interact with constituents; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout his legislative career, Representative
18 Pena distinguished himself as a strong advocate for the Rio Grande
19 Valley; among his numerous achievements, he helped bring a medical
20 school and a state-operated drug treatment center to the region; he
21 also worked to raise teacher salaries and played a key role in
22 establishing new facilities at The University of Texas-Pan
23 American; in addition, he was an ardent supporter of veterans, and
24 he endorsed legislation that expanded health insurance coverage for

1 Texas children; and

2 WHEREAS, Along the way, this esteemed public servant was
3 instrumental in the creation of the Hispanic Republican Conference
4 of Texas, which he served as founding chair, and in 2009, he was
5 commissioned a major in the Texas State Guard; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Pena has been the recipient of myriad
7 awards for his political leadership and contributions to Hidalgo
8 County, including the Teddy Roosevelt Award from the McAllen
9 Chamber of Commerce and the Champion of Freedom Award from the Texas
10 Federation of Republican Women; and

11 WHEREAS, In his 10 years as a state representative, Aaron
12 Pena, Jr., made a positive and lasting impact on the lives of
13 countless citizens, and his achievements will continue to benefit
14 the Lone Star State for years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Aaron Pena, Jr., for his
17 outstanding public service and extend to him sincere best wishes
18 for the future; and, be it further

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