

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

In Memory  
of  
The Honorable Mario V. Gallegos, Jr.

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins Texans across the state in grieving the untimely loss of Senator Mario V. Gallegos, Jr., who died October 16, 2012, at the age of 62; and

**WHEREAS**, Born September 8, 1950, Mario Gallegos was a lifelong Houstonian; he grew up in the Magnolia Park community in the East End and graduated from Milby High School; he later returned to school and earned a degree from the University of Houston in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, He joined the Houston Fire Department at the age of 18 and served the people of Houston with distinction for 22 years as a firefighter, rising to the rank of senior captain; during those years, he developed an abiding interest in politics and played an important role in articulating and promoting the needs of the state's firefighters and other emergency responders through his union work at the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, He began his legislative career as a member of the Texas House of Representatives after a landslide election victory in 1990; during his two terms in the House, he began the work that would make him a longtime champion for the working class citizens of Texas, concentrating on such issues as health care and public education; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1994, he became the first Hispanic elected to the Texas Senate from Harris County; over the course of his tenure of nearly two decades in the Senate, he played a vital role in fighting for teacher pay raises and increased funding for public schools, putting into action his belief that "making a solid investment in our children is one of the smartest things we can do, one which will reap long-term benefits for our state"; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Gallegos was a staunch advocate for senior citizens and defended Medicaid funding for residents in long-term care facilities; he was also responsive to the need for economic opportunities in his district and led the way in the creation of the municipal management districts that revitalized communities in Houston and served as a model for other Texas cities; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2007, Senator Gallegos again displayed the courage and principled determination that were the hallmarks of his legislative career; only weeks after undergoing a liver transplant, and against the orders of his doctor, he returned to the Senate so that he would be able to cast his vote against voter identification legislation; his was the deciding vote in preventing the passage of the bill; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Gallegos received numerous awards over the course of his illustrious career, including the Distinguished Legislative Service Award from the Texas Municipal League, the Good Guy Award from the Texas Women's Political Caucus, and Legislator of the Year from the Mexican American Bar Association; he was recognized by the Texas State Association of Firefighters and the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas for his passage of public safety legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, In recognition of his legacy of public service, Senator Gallegos lay in state in the Senate chamber so that citizens could pay their respects to the man who had dedicated himself to making Texas a more generous, just, and honorable state; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of wisdom, strength, and integrity, Senator Gallegos gave voice to the aspirations and dreams of countless Texans, and his hard work and diligence served as a constant inspiration to his fellow legislators; and

**WHEREAS**, He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and although his presence will be deeply missed by all those who were privileged to share in his life, his legacy of service and dedication will continue to have a profound impact for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Senator Mario V. Gallegos, Jr.; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of profound sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in grateful and loving memory of Mario Gallegos.

Whitmire

Birdwell  
Campbell  
Carona  
Davis  
Deuell  
Duncan  
Ellis  
Eltife  
Estes  
Fraser

Hancock  
Hegar  
Hinojosa  
Huffman  
Lucio  
Nelson  
Nichols  
Patrick  
Paxton

Rodriguez  
Schwertner  
Seliger  
Taylor  
Uresti  
Van de Putte  
Watson  
West  
Williams  
Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 15, 2013, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Dean of the Senate