

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 876

In Memory  
of  
Demetrio Peña Rodríguez

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Demetrio Peña Rodríguez, who died April 22, 2013, at the age of 87; and

**WHEREAS**, Demetrio Rodríguez was an exemplary citizen who was widely admired in his community for his many achievements and his exceptional efforts to ensure that all students had an equal chance to receive a good education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Rodríguez was born into a family of migrant farmworkers; he served in the military and was employed as a sheet metal worker; despite his lack of formal schooling, he recognized the importance of a solid education in achieving success in an ever-changing society and went to extraordinary lengths to ensure that his children and their peers received the opportunities they deserved; and

**WHEREAS**, He was the named plaintiff in a landmark class-action lawsuit that found the state's method of funding public schools to be unconstitutional; he was also a plaintiff in the case that provided the basis for today's more equitable funding formula; and

**WHEREAS**, He was honored by the Saint Mary's University Chicano Civil Rights Series for his role in the struggle for equitable school financing, and he also received the 2009 Champion of Equity Award; and

**WHEREAS,** A man of courage, strength, and compassion, he gave unselfishly to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

**WHEREAS,** He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Demetrio Peña Rodriguez; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Demetrio Peña Rodriguez.

Van de Putte

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 13, 2013, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate