

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 221

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nueces County lost an admired public servant with
2 the passing of retired district clerk Oscar Soliz of Corpus Christi
3 on December 15, 2014, at the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Corpus Christi on March 8, 1934, Oscar Soliz
5 was the son of Joe A. Soliz and Anita Gonzales Soliz; he excelled at
6 both football and baseball as a high school student at Corpus
7 Christi College-Academy; subsequently, he attended Texas Christian
8 University on a football scholarship before completing bachelor's
9 degrees in political science and law enforcement at Texas A&M
10 University-Corpus Christi; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Soliz married his high school sweetheart, the
12 former Ola Mae Trammell, in 1954; devoted to his family, he took
13 great pride in his children, Joseph, Jesse, Jackie, and Jennifer,
14 and steadfastly encouraged them to pursue their dreams; and

15 WHEREAS, After working alongside his father for a number of
16 years at the S&G Sales auto dealership, Mr. Soliz was elected
17 Nueces County district clerk in 1970, becoming one of the first
18 Latinos to win a countywide race in the area; his outstanding tenure
19 in office spanned 32 years, and during that time, he not only
20 excelled in fulfilling the duties of his position but also promoted
21 good governance by taking on a range of additional
22 responsibilities; he was appointed by Governor Preston Smith to the
23 Criminal Justice Council and the Criminal Justice Board, and he
24 represented Texas district clerks on task forces dealing with a

1 host of issues, including child support enforcement and information
2 technology; and

3 WHEREAS, This dynamic leader was the longest-serving member
4 of the National Association of County Officials board, and for more
5 than a quarter-century, he was a member of the boards of the Texas
6 Association of Counties and the Texas Association of Regional
7 Councils; in addition, he served as chair of the Coastal Bend
8 Council of Governments and as president of the National Association
9 of Regional Councils, the National Association of Hispanic County
10 Officials, and the National Association of County Recorders,
11 Election Officials and Clerks; highly respected by his peers, he
12 was the recipient of a long list of prestigious accolades from
13 national and state professional organizations; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to his other achievements, Mr. Soliz
15 held leadership positions in such organizations as the Boy Scouts
16 of America, the Camp Fire USA Coastal Bend Council, the National
17 Conference of Christians and Jews, and the United Way of the Coastal
18 Bend; he belonged to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and was
19 active in the Knights of Columbus and the International Order of
20 Alhambra; an enthusiastic political activist, he supported
21 Democratic candidates at the local, state, and national levels,
22 served on the Democratic National Committee, and was a super
23 delegate at a number of the party's national conventions; moreover,
24 he was elected by the Area Council on Aging to represent the Coastal
25 Bend Region in the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; and

26 WHEREAS, A warmhearted, humble, and engaging man, Oscar Soliz
27 is deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues, but they

1 will continue to find inspiration in the outstanding contributions
2 he made to his community and state; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Oscar Soliz and extend
5 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife of 60
6 years, Ola Mae Soliz; to his sons, Joseph Soliz and his wife,
7 Juanita, and Jesse Soliz and his wife, Judy Pokorny; to his
8 daughters, Jackie Soliz-Chapa and her husband, Mario Chapa, and
9 Jennifer Soliz; to his grandchildren, Lauren and Michael Soliz; and
10 to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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