

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1208

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Raymondville lost a respected civic
2 leader with the passing of former mayor Eustolio Gonzales on
3 November 9, 2014, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, "Tolo" Gonzales graduated from Raymondville High
5 School and subsequently served as a member of the United States
6 Marine Corps during the Korean War; after receiving an honorable
7 discharge in 1954, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in
8 education from The University of Texas--Pan American and a master's
9 degree from Texas A&M University--Kingsville; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzales led an exemplary career in education
11 that spanned two decades with the Raymondville Independent School
12 District, and he also worked as a lecturer and consultant on migrant
13 education in Texas, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, where he
14 served as supervisor of Title I migrant education at the Wisconsin
15 Department of Public Instruction; and

16 WHEREAS, Greatly admired for his dedication to his community,
17 Mr. Gonzales became Raymondville's first Hispanic mayor in 1973;
18 three years later, area voters chose him as a county commissioner, a
19 position in which he ably served for 12 years, and he earned the
20 distinction of being the first elected Hispanic county judge of
21 Willacy County in 1991; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzales was also actively involved in the
23 Democratic Party, playing an instrumental role in campaigns for
24 numerous state and national candidates, including Senator Lloyd

1 Bentsen, Governor Ann Richards, Bob Krueger, and Garry Mauro; in
2 addition, he was appointed to the Texas Board of Aging by Governor
3 Mark White and was named chair of the Regional Review Committee by
4 Governor Richards; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan further distinguished himself
6 as cofounder and a member of the board of directors of Amigos Del
7 Valle, and he was also a member of the Catholic Men's Club, the Our
8 Lady of Grace Parish Pastoral Council, the Mexican American Chamber
9 of Commerce, the Jaycees, the Texas State Teachers Association, the
10 Willacy County Industrial Foundation, the Texas College of Probate
11 Judges, and many other worthwhile organizations; receiving
12 well-deserved recognition for his outstanding efforts, he was
13 selected as a 2002 Notable Valley Hispanic honoree by The
14 University of Texas--Pan American library; and

15 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Gonzales enjoyed the love
16 and support of his wife, the former Emilia Margarita Saenz, his
17 college sweetheart with whom he shared more than a half-century of
18 marriage; over the years, the couple became the parents of six
19 children, Abigail, Kristine, Patricia, Steven, Edward, and
20 Gabriel, and they eventually knew the joy of welcoming into their
21 family two additional generations; and

22 WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to gauge the full effect
23 of one man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark
24 on the world as they move through it, and Tolo Gonzales's
25 contributions to his community will continue to resonate for many
26 years to come; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Eustolio Gonzales
2 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
3 wife, Emilia Margarita Gonzales; to his children, Abigail Davis and
4 her husband, Weldon, Kristine Rivera and her husband, Martin,
5 Patricia Gonzales, Steven Gonzales, Edward Gonzales and his wife,
6 Ellena, and Gabriel Gonzales and his wife, Wendy; to his siblings,
7 Uvaldo Gonzales, Margarita Fonseca, and Maria Mendoza; to his
8 grandchildren, Lisette Richardson, Emilee Gonzales, Owen Rivera,
9 and Layla and Oliver Gonzales; to his great-grandchildren, Jake and
10 Ryan Richardson; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,
11 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 Eustolio
15 Gonzales.