

By: Márquez

H.R. No. 2168

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former El Paso mayor Larry Francis was honored by
2 the El Paso County Historical Society with induction into its Hall
3 of Honor in 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year, the society pays homage to men and women
5 who have made significant contributions to the development and
6 quality of life in El Paso County throughout its history, and
7 Mr. Francis is indeed one such individual; and

8 WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio in 1933, Larry Francis moved
9 with his family to El Paso in 1941 and went on to graduate from
10 Austin High School a decade later; he enrolled at Texas A&M
11 University and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical
12 engineering, after which he was commissioned as a second lieutenant
13 in the United States Air Force; and

14 WHEREAS, On completing his enlistment in 1959, Mr. Francis
15 returned to El Paso and started an electronics business, Francis
16 Communications, that he would eventually pass on to his son, Rick;
17 in 1965, he founded the SYT Corporation, which he operated for many
18 years until selling the company and retiring in the 1980s; the SYT
19 Corporation specialized in designing and producing governmental
20 telecommunications equipment and systems and is known for
21 introducing the first direct telephone interface between mobile
22 radios and the common carrier telephone system; and

23 WHEREAS, It was during his retirement years that Mr. Francis
24 decided to venture into public service, holding his first post as

1 the chair of the Civil Service Commission; in 1993, he became the
2 45th mayor of El Paso after defeating the incumbent and 10 other
3 candidates, and he won a landslide victory for reelection two years
4 later; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of his tenure, Mayor Francis guided
6 the city through a period of growth and modernization; in a short
7 time, he helped close the budget deficit and create a surplus, and
8 he was instrumental in resuming stalled expansion efforts for the
9 local zoo and airport and in moving forward plans for the
10 redevelopment of the Union Plaza District; drawing on his career
11 experience, he also led his administration in implementing major
12 technology upgrades, including new computer servers and a
13 cutting-edge radio communication system for fire, police, and
14 emergency medical personnel; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to ably meeting the duties of his
16 office, this esteemed gentleman was a member of a number of boards
17 and commissions, among them the Sun Bowl Host Committee and the
18 Joint Legislature Support Committee, as well as advisory bodies for
19 the Fort Bliss Air Defense Museum and the El Paso A&M Club; he has
20 further immersed himself in activities with his church and the Boy
21 Scouts of America and in charitable fund-raising endeavors; and

22 WHEREAS, Along the way, Mr. Francis has been blessed with a
23 fine family that includes his wife, Marilyn Francis, their
24 children, Rick, Linda, Brian, and Carolyn, and their grandchildren;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Through his contributions as a public official,
27 businessman, and engaged citizen, Larry Francis has greatly

1 enhanced the community he is proud to call home, and he has earned a
2 lasting place among the most influential leaders, past and present,
3 to have lived and served in El Paso; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
5 Legislature hereby congratulate former mayor Larry Francis on his
6 induction into the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor
7 and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for Mr. Francis as an expression of high regard by the
11 Texas House of Representatives.