

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 2756

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Houston lost an admired civil rights
2 leader with the passing of Ernest Eguia on May 3, 2015, at the age of
3 95; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Narciso and Maria Eguia in Lockhart on
5 November 7, 1919, Ernest Eguia grew up in Houston; he was the oldest
6 of six children, and he began working as a boy, shining shoes at a
7 barbershop and selling newspapers; although he excelled
8 academically, he left school in the 10th grade for a job at a
9 menswear store, Buck's Dry Goods; during World War II, he served as
10 a forward artillery observer in the United States Army, and he
11 fought in the Battle of the Bulge and took part in the liberation of
12 the Nordhausen concentration camp; he rose to the rank of staff
13 sergeant, and among other decorations, he was awarded a Bronze
14 Star; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Eguia returned from four years in the military
16 to find that discrimination against Mexican Americans remained a
17 serious problem, and he joined a fledgling advocacy organization,
18 the League of United Latin American Citizens; as an early leader, he
19 helped make the Houston council one of the most prominent and
20 effective chapters; the organization opened the way for Hispanics
21 to serve in the fire and police departments, and it expanded the
22 participation of Latinos in all aspects of city government; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1963, he was involved in arranging an address to
24 Houston activists by President John F. Kennedy, which represented

1 one of the first outreaches to Latinos by a sitting U.S. president;
2 over the course of 67 years of active membership in LULAC, Mr. Eguia
3 held offices at the national level as well, and he helped create
4 such programs as the Little School of the 400, a precursor to Head
5 Start, and Service, Education, and Redeployment; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Eguia was employed for a time by Warren
7 Petroleum Company; later, he returned to Buck's Dry Goods and made
8 his career in retail as a salesman and manager; moreover, he was a
9 proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American
10 Legion; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his profound commitment to social justice,
12 Ernest Eguia made a lasting, positive difference in Houston and
13 beyond, and those he leaves behind will continue to find
14 inspiration in his accomplishments for years to come; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ernest Eguia and
18 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
19 67 years, Maria Eguia; to his children, Diane DeYoung, Rebecca
20 Eguia Curry, David Ernest Eguia and his wife, Sylvia, and Mark
21 Steven Eguia and his wife, Debbie; to his grandchildren, Mark
22 Andrew Schlossberg, Kimberly Curry Kersten, Madelyn E. DeYoung,
23 Matthew James Curry, Michael B. Eguia, and Sam Ernest Eguia; to his
24 great-grandchildren, Addison and Brody; and to his other relatives
25 and friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ernest
2 Eguia.