

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 3027

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, William M. Peña, a 1942 graduate of Texas A&M
2 University, was presented with the school's Distinguished Alumnus
3 Award at a ceremony in College Station in March 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Laredo in 1919, William Merriweather Peña
5 graduated from high school in 1937 and followed his older brother,
6 Gustavo, to Texas A&M, where he earned his bachelor's degree; an
7 active member of the university's Corps of Cadets, he quickly
8 answered his nation's call to duty in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor;
9 he graduated on a Friday, was sworn into the U.S. Army on Saturday,
10 and reported for duty at Fort Sam Houston on Sunday; and

11 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Peña served as a training officer in
12 California and Georgia before joining the fight in Europe in August
13 1944; he took part in the legendary Battle of the Bulge in the
14 Ardennes in December of that year, and as his unit pushed into
15 Germany that winter, he sustained serious injuries from a land
16 mine; promoted to captain, he spent two years recovering in
17 hospitals, and he earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1947, Mr. Peña resumed his studies at Texas A&M
19 and earned a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1948; he went to
20 work for Caudill Rowlett Scott in College Station, and by the
21 following year, he was a partner in the firm; he moved to Houston
22 with CRS in 1959 and played a leading role in its growth from its
23 four original partners to more than 3,000 employees in 32 offices
24 around the world; he took an active part in the design and

1 construction of many community schools and auditoriums, including
2 over two dozen educational and civic buildings in his native
3 Laredo; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Peña quickly became known as one of the foremost
5 experts in architectural programming, the process by which
6 architects systematically evaluate a client's values, goals,
7 facts, and needs in order to provide an appropriate and
8 well-conceived design; in 1969, he coauthored *Problem Seeking: New*
9 *Directions in Architectural Programming*, which was followed by
10 *Problem Seeking: An Architectural Programming Primer*, now in its
11 fifth edition and still the standard text on the subject; by the
12 time he retired in 1984, he had directed the programming for more
13 than 400 projects in 38 states and nine foreign countries, and he
14 has instructed and mentored countless young architects; and

15 WHEREAS, The William M. Peña Professorship in Information
16 Management was endowed in his name at Texas A&M in 1990, and his
17 many other honors include recognition as an Outstanding
18 Architecture Alumnus in 1998 and receipt of the first Thomas
19 Jefferson Award in 2000 from the Houston Chapter of the American
20 Institute of Architects; in November 2013, he was appointed a
21 chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, and he was one of the
22 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge honored by the "Texas Aggies Go
23 to War" exhibition in Bastogne, Belgium, in 2014; and

24 WHEREAS, Over the course of a remarkable life, this
25 accomplished man has earned great distinction for himself, his
26 profession, and his alma mater, and he is truly deserving of this
27 prestigious award; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
2 Legislature hereby congratulate William M. Peña for receiving a
3 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M University and
4 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Mr. Peña as an expression of high regard by the Texas
8 House of Representatives.