

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 488

In Memory
of
Oscar Soliz

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

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

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

WHEREAS, After working alongside his father for a number of years at the S and G Sales auto dealership, Mr. Soliz was elected Nueces County district clerk in 1970, becoming one of the first Latinos to win a countywide race in the area; his outstanding service in office spanned 32 years, and during that time, he not only excelled in fulfilling the duties of his position but also promoted good governance by taking on a range of additional responsibilities; he was appointed by Governor Preston Smith to the Criminal Justice Council and the Criminal Justice Board, and he represented Texas district clerks on task forces dealing with a host of issues, including child support enforcement and information technology; and

WHEREAS, This dynamic leader was the longest-serving member of the National Association of County Officials Board, and for more than a quarter of a century, he was a member of the boards of the Texas Association of Counties and the Texas Association of Regional Councils; in addition, he served as chair of the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and as president of the National Association of Regional Councils, the National Association of Hispanic County Officials, and the National Association of County Records, Election Officials and Clerks; highly respected by his peers, he was the recipient of a long list of prestigious accolades from national and state professional organizations; and

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

WHEREAS, A warmhearted, humble, and engaging man, Oscar Soliz is deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues, but they will continue to find inspiration in the outstanding contributions he made to his community and state; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Oscar Soliz.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2015, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate