

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 277

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Omar Figueroa Jr. of Weslaco has distinguished  
2 himself through his exceptional achievements in the sport of  
3 boxing, earning a world title and compiling an unbeaten record; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Omar Figueroa Sr. and Judith Figueroa,  
5 Omar Figueroa Jr. was introduced to the sport at age six by his  
6 father, who has served as his son's trainer for much of his career;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Omar Figueroa Jr. first proved his abilities in the  
9 amateur ranks, winning a Golden Gloves state title in 2007; that  
10 triumph helped convince him to turn professional, and he notched  
11 his first pro victory on June 6, 2008, at the age of 18; earning the  
12 nickname "Panterita," or "little panther," for his aggressive style  
13 in the ring, he won each of his first eight bouts by knockout or  
14 technical knockout, and none of the fights extended past three  
15 rounds; by 2012, he was taking on other rising contenders in the  
16 135-pound weight class, and key wins against Michael Perez and  
17 Abner Cotto earned him a shot at the title; and

18 WHEREAS, On July 27, 2013, Mr. Figueroa stepped into the ring  
19 with Nihito Arakawa, and after a thrilling 12-round battle,  
20 Panterita was named the victor by unanimous decision, claiming the  
21 lightweight world championship; he defeated two challengers in 2014  
22 before relinquishing the title later that year after injuries  
23 prevented him from defending it; and

24 WHEREAS, Despite the setback, this determined fighter scored

1 two wins in 2015; following an extended layoff, he returned to  
2 action on July 15, 2017, against Robert Guerrero, another former  
3 champion; proving that he is once again in top form, Panterita  
4 earned a commanding victory in the welterweight class, overcoming  
5 his opponent in just three rounds; the fight marked his 19th career  
6 knockout and raised his overall record to 27 wins and 1 draw; and

7       WHEREAS, One of the most exciting boxers to emerge from the  
8 Lone Star State in recent years, Omar Figueroa Jr. has become a  
9 source of great pride to his fellow Texans, and he is indeed  
10 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Omar Figueroa  
13 Jr. on his accomplishments as a professional boxer and extend to him  
14 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

15       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for Mr. Figueroa as an expression of high regard by the  
17 Texas House of Representatives.