

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 481

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Donna lost a dedicated physician and a
2 beloved figure in local sports history with the passing of
3 Dr. Celestino Z. Avila on July 31, 2017, at the age of 75; and

4 WHEREAS, Celestino Avila was born on December 3, 1941, in
5 Donna, where his athletic gifts, intellect, and competitive drive
6 were apparent from an early age; he distinguished himself as a
7 defensive back and tight end on the Donna High School football team,
8 and during the 1959 season, he received All-District and All-South
9 Texas honors and was named All-Valley Most Valuable Player; and

10 WHEREAS, Following his graduation in 1960, Mr. Avila went on
11 to obtain a degree in biology and chemistry from Texas State
12 University; as a three-year letterman on the football team there,
13 he earned consecutive All-Conference and All-American accolades,
14 and his achievements as a player were later celebrated with his
15 selection to the Rio Grande Valley All-Millennium team in 1999, to
16 the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2000, and to the
17 National Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame in 2003; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Avila worked as a teacher and coach with the
19 Lyford, Los Fresnos, and Edinburg school districts before
20 continuing his education at the Universidad de Monterrey in Mexico,
21 where he earned his medical degree; he practiced medicine in his
22 hometown of Donna for many years, endearing himself to countless
23 patients with his kind and gentle bedside manner; and

24 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Avila enjoyed the love and

1 support of his wife, Aurora, with whom he joyfully raised five
2 children, Celestino, Veronica, Marco, Julio, and Erica; he took
3 care to instill in them the values of hard work, discipline,
4 humility, and faith, and he later had the pleasure of sharing his
5 wisdom with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Celestino Avila was a devoted family man and a
7 source of great pride to his community, and he will long be
8 remembered with affection and admiration by all who knew him; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
11 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
12 Dr. Celestino Z. Avila and extend heartfelt condolences to all
13 those who mourn his passing; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
17 Dr. Celestino Avila.