

By: Arévalo

H.R. No. 101

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Archbishop Emeritus Patricio Fernandez Flores of  
2 San Antonio passed away on January 9, 2017, at the age of 87,  
3 leaving behind an exceptional record as a pioneering leader in the  
4 church and as a champion for social justice; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on July 26, 1929, in Ganado to Patricio Flores  
6 and Trinidad Fernandez de Flores, Archbishop Flores grew up in  
7 Pearland; in his teens, he joined the fight for education equality  
8 by organizing community fund-raisers, which eventually helped  
9 secure the legal victory that allowed Mexican American children to  
10 attend the local public school; and

11           WHEREAS, Ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1956, Patricio  
12 Flores spent the early years of his career in Houston, where he  
13 served as assistant pastor of Holy Name Parish, as pastor of  
14 Guardian Angel Parish, and as pastor of St. Joseph-St. Stephen  
15 Parish; in 1970, he was consecrated as the first Mexican American  
16 bishop in the United States; eight years later, he began a brief  
17 tenure as prelate of the Diocese of El Paso, and in 1979 he was  
18 appointed archbishop of San Antonio; and

19           WHEREAS, Presiding over the Archdiocese of San Antonio for  
20 more than two decades, Archbishop Flores dedicated much of his  
21 energies to issues affecting indigent women and children, the  
22 elderly, and the infirm, and he remained a fervent advocate for the  
23 rights of farmworkers; in 1987, he had the honor of welcoming Pope  
24 John Paul II to the San Antonio Archdiocese, where the pontiff

1 celebrated a mass that was attended by some 330,000 people; and

2 WHEREAS, A member of the Migration and Refugee Services  
3 Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Archbishop Flores also  
4 chaired the Church in Latin America Committee of the National  
5 Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Texas Advisory Committee to  
6 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; he took pride in his heritage  
7 and encouraged other Latinos to become agents of change in their  
8 communities; in 1986, he received the Hispanic Heritage Award for  
9 leadership; and

10 WHEREAS, Profoundly devoted to his faith and to the cause of  
11 social justice, Archbishop Patricio Flores touched the lives of  
12 countless individuals in ways beyond measure, and his  
13 compassionate, selfless service to the world will be remembered far  
14 and wide with deepest appreciation; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Archbishop Patricio  
17 Fernandez Flores and extend deepest sympathy to all those who mourn  
18 his passing; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Archbishop  
22 Patricio Flores.