

By: Stickland

H.R. No. 148

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former Texas Ranger Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez is being
2 inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame as a member of the
3 Class of 2017, and this honor provides recognition for an athlete
4 who is one of the best catchers in history; and

5 WHEREAS, born on November 27, 1971, in Manati, Puerto Rico,
6 Mr. Rodriguez learned baseball at an early age. Mr. Rodríguez
7 attended Lino Padron Rivera High School, where he was discovered by
8 scout Luis Rosa. Rodríguez signed a contract with the Texas Rangers
9 in July 1988, at the age of 16, and began his professional baseball
10 career; and

11 WHEREAS Mr. Rodriguez made his Major League debut with the
12 Texas Rangers at the age of 19 on June 19, 1991. Mr. Rodriguez
13 immediately established himself as one of baseball's best
14 all-around players--equally as formidable behind the plate playing
15 defense as he was offensively at the plate; and

16 WHEREAS over his 21 season career, Mr. Rodriguez played a
17 majority with the Texas Rangers, including one season with the
18 Houston Astros, leading him to become a favorite athlete of
19 baseball fans of all ages all over Texas; and

20 WHEREAS during his career, Mr. Rodriguez was a 14-time
21 All-Star; 13-time Gold Glove Award winner; 7-time Silver Slugger
22 Award winner; AL MVP in 1999 with the Texas Rangers; and a World
23 Series Champion in 2003 with the Florida Marlins.

24 WHEREAS while widely regarded as one of the best defensive

1 catchers of all time, Mr. Rodriguez finished in career in the
2 top-ten in runs scored, home runs, runs batted in, hits, doubles,
3 and career batting average among catchers in baseball history; and

4 WHEREAS Mr. Rodriguez was not only a wonderful teammate and
5 ballplayer, but also great ambassador of the game and beloved
6 philanthropist; and

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulates Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez on his
9 election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez as an expression of high regard
12 by the Texas House of Representatives.