

By: Blanco

H.R. No. 484

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of El Paso lost an esteemed community
2 leader with the passing of Dr. Joseph Ernest Torres on February 5,
3 2017, at the age of 93; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in El Paso in 1923, Joseph Torres graduated
5 from El Paso High School in 1941 and attended the Texas College of
6 Mines and Metallurgy; he later worked as a recruiting agent with
7 Southern Pacific Railroad and as a trainee marine machinist in
8 Oakland, California; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1942, during World War II, Dr. Torres enlisted in
10 the U.S. Army Air Corps, and he served as an infantryman before
11 becoming a B-17 bombardier and navigator, flying 13 bombing
12 missions over Germany; in 1945, he began a two-year stint as a
13 lieutenant in the Army Air Corps Reserve; and

14 WHEREAS, After returning to civilian life, Dr. Torres
15 graduated with a bachelor's degree from CMM in 1948 and
16 subsequently earned his dental degree from Creighton University in
17 1952; he went on to serve in the Air Force Dental Reserve, attaining
18 the rank of colonel, before opening his own private practice as a
19 dental surgeon in El Paso; over the years, he contributed to his
20 profession as chair of the El Paso District Dental Society and the
21 West Texas Dental Society and as an advisor to the El Paso Community
22 College Dental Assistants Training program; and

23 WHEREAS, This proud veteran remained dedicated to his
24 comrades in arms long after his military service; he was a cofounder

1 of the Legacy of Valor and Vietnam Veterans Memorial organizations
2 and served as vice commander of the local chapter of the American GI
3 Forum; in recognition of his outstanding efforts, he was named an
4 honorary member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, which
5 presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious
6 and Exemplary Performance in Support of International Freedom and
7 Peace; and

8 WHEREAS, Joseph Torres fought courageously in defense of his
9 nation and then returned to Texas to serve his community with equal
10 commitment, and he will long be remembered with great admiration
11 and affection by all who had the good fortune to know him; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Joseph Ernest
15 Torres and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joseph
20 Torres.