

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.R. No. 682

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Austin are mourning the loss of former  
2 Travis County commissioner Richard A. Moya, who died on February  
3 16, 2017, at the age of 84; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Austin on August 14, 1932, Richard Moya was  
5 the son of Pete and Bertha Moya; he grew up in the barrio on the  
6 city's East Side, and he developed a strong sense of social justice  
7 at an early age, when his mother stood her ground against  
8 segregation in the school district to ensure he would attend his  
9 neighborhood school, Metz Elementary; as a student at Austin High  
10 School, he joined with friends to create an alternative newspaper  
11 that covered his Mexican American classmates, and when the school  
12 banned the *Blah, Blah, and Blah*, he distributed copies at the  
13 drugstore across the street; later, he became national president of  
14 the Junior LULAC, and he was a charter member of the Mexican  
15 American Democrats of Texas and the State Tejano Democrats; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Moya worked in the printing business before  
17 enlisting in the United States Army during the Korean War;  
18 subsequently, he was hired as a chief investigator with Travis  
19 County Legal Aid, where his bilingual skill and community contacts  
20 made him a valued staff member; and

21           WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. Moya became Travis County's first  
22 Hispanic elected official, following his election as county  
23 commissioner; over the course of four terms in office, he  
24 vigorously supported diversity in hiring and worked tirelessly to

1 improve social services; he played a key role in the establishment  
2 of an abuse unit in the district attorney's office, in the  
3 development of the StarFlight emergency services program, and in  
4 the creation of a rural transportation program, among other  
5 initiatives; although he sometimes confronted antagonism and  
6 bigotry, he surmounted obstacles with his marvelous sense of humor;  
7 he remained very accessible to the community throughout his career,  
8 and the county eventually named Richard Moya Park in his honor; and

9       WHEREAS, After concluding his tenure, Mr. Moya served the  
10 state as director of field operations for the agriculture  
11 commissioner; he subsequently joined the administration of  
12 Governor Ann Richards as a deputy chief of staff, a position that  
13 entailed a wide range of responsibilities; moreover, he helped her  
14 achieve her goal of diversifying state boards and commissions; and

15       WHEREAS, Mr. Moya's dedication to public service was exceeded  
16 only by his devotion to his family; he shared a rewarding marriage  
17 of almost 65 years with his wife, Gertrude "Gertie" Moya, and he was  
18 the proud father of two children, Danny Moya and Lori Moya; in his  
19 later years, he knew the joy of welcoming into his family three  
20 grandchildren, Misty Moya Welch, Jeffrey Daniel Delgado, and Teresa  
21 Denise Delgado, and four great-grandchildren, Nathan  
22 Bailey-Delgado, Lucas Delgado, Jacob Moya, and Danika Moya; and

23       WHEREAS, A groundbreaking public servant, Richard Moya  
24 effected positive change and mentored hundreds of community  
25 leaders, and although he will be deeply missed, his contributions  
26 will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be  
27 it

1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Richard A. Moya and  
3 extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

4           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Richard  
7 Moya.