

By: Moody

H.R. No. 763

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their  
2 memories of Guillermo Evaristo Avila of El Paso, who died on  
3 February 4, 2017, at the age of 87; and

4           WHEREAS, "Memo" Avila was born in El Paso on November 6, 1929,  
5 to Evaristo and Carmen Avila; he began working at the age of 12, as a  
6 delivery boy and butcher in his father's grocery store; after  
7 graduating as valedictorian from El Paso Technical High School, he  
8 attended the Texas College of Mines; from 1948 to 1956, he served  
9 his nation as a member of the National Guard; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Avila was joined in matrimony to Isabel  
11 Lightbourn in 1953, and they shared their lives for more than 63  
12 years; he was the proud father of four children, Bill, Andy,  
13 Annette, and Amanda, and later in life, he was blessed with six  
14 grandchildren, James, Thomas, Kristina, Roldan, Anthony, and  
15 Lucas; and

16           WHEREAS, In 1952, Mr. Avila bought one of the popular Leo's  
17 Mexican Restaurant locations from his uncles, Leo Collins and  
18 Willie Terrazas, and he taught himself to cook while his father ran  
19 the dining room; they moved the restaurant to the Coronado Shopping  
20 Center in 1962, and a decade later, Mr. Avila built his own  
21 restaurant on North Mesa Street, changing the name from Leo's to  
22 Avila's in 1988 and opening another location on the east side of El  
23 Paso; the Mesa Street location is still thriving under the  
24 direction of his children Andy and Annette; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Avila also owned a self-storage business, an  
2 apartment building, a trailer park, a chili-processing business,  
3 and other enterprises; he served as president of the El Paso  
4 Restaurant Association and as a board member of Pan American  
5 Savings and Loan, the American Heart Association, the Greater El  
6 Paso Chamber of Commerce, and the El Paso Community Foundation,  
7 among others; he was inducted into the Texas Restaurant  
8 Association's Hall of Honor and named Outstanding Restaurateur of  
9 the Year in 1980; and

10           WHEREAS, A founding member of the Santa Teresa Country Club,  
11 Mr. Avila was an avid golfer for nearly four decades, playing until  
12 he was 80 years old; he expressed his strong religious faith by  
13 regularly attending St. Matthew Catholic Church; and

14           WHEREAS, A loving husband, a doting father and grandfather,  
15 and a hardworking entrepreneur, Memo Avila lived a full and  
16 generous life, and he will forever be a source of inspiration to all  
17 those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Guillermo Evaristo  
20 Avila and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends;  
21 and, be it further

22           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Memo Avila.