

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.R. No. 2265

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Austin have lost a respected  
2 activist and civic leader with the death of former city council  
3 member John Treviño Jr. on April 4, 2017, at the age of 78; and

4 WHEREAS, John Treviño was born in Austin on October 18, 1938,  
5 to Salome and Juan Treviño; he took on a number of odd jobs in his  
6 youth, working in a laundry, moving furniture, and delivering  
7 blueprints, and when he was seven, he became an altar boy, a role  
8 that encouraged in him a lifelong commitment to the service of  
9 others; and

10 WHEREAS, At the age of 17, Mr. Treviño secured his father's  
11 permission and enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was a  
12 paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division; after his discharge,  
13 Mr. Treviño returned to Austin and worked at several jobs before a  
14 priest took note of his leadership qualities and urged him to "do  
15 more"; in 1965, he became the first paid antipoverty worker at the  
16 East First Neighborhood Center in East Austin; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Treviño's early efforts included bringing IRS  
18 volunteers into East Austin to help residents prepare their taxes,  
19 starting a neighborhood cleanup that evolved into the city's  
20 official bulk trash collection program, and leading the effort to  
21 establish health clinics and low-cost medical services in the  
22 neighborhood; he also inspired social work students from The  
23 University of Texas at Austin to work in the community, and under  
24 his direction, members of the Volunteers in Service to America

1 (VISTA) program established the Austin Tenants' Council and the  
2 Meals on Wheels program; and

3 WHEREAS, One of a group of young Mexican American activists  
4 in the city who were dubbed by journalists as the "Young Turks" and  
5 the "Brown Machine," Mr. Treviño became, in 1975, the first Mexican  
6 American to be elected to the Austin City Council; his fellow  
7 council members chose him as mayor pro tem, and he also served for  
8 three months as interim mayor; and

9 WHEREAS, During Mr. Treviño's 13-year tenure on the council,  
10 his efforts to promote the awarding of city contracts to businesses  
11 owned by women and minorities led to the creation of the Small and  
12 Minority Business Resources Department; he also worked to improve  
13 infrastructure in minority communities and to ensure that women and  
14 minorities were represented among the city's staff and on its  
15 boards and committees; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Treviño left the city council in 1988 and went  
17 to work at UT Austin, where he played a vital part in the  
18 Historically Underutilized Business program; from 1997 to 2009, he  
19 also served on the board of Capital Metro; in 2006, the city named  
20 John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park at Morrison Ranch, along the  
21 Colorado River, in his honor; and

22 WHEREAS, For more than half a century, John Treviño dedicated  
23 himself to making the city of Austin a better place to live for all  
24 of its citizens, and his commitment to social justice, inclusivity,  
25 and equal rights will continue to inspire all those who follow in  
26 his footsteps; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of John Treviño Jr. and  
2 extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
3 children, John, Mary Theresa, Peter, Michael, Mark, Patricia, and  
4 Jesse; to their mother, Connie Loya Treviño; to his special friend,  
5 Judy Ford; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John  
10 Treviño Jr.