

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 845

WHEREAS, René M. Peña stepped down as the 81st Judicial District attorney on January 1, 2017, drawing to a close 12 years of exemplary service in that position; and

WHEREAS, A native of Floresville, Mr. Peña graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and went on to earn a law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law; after working in private practice, he served as the Wilson County attorney prior to winning election as the 81st Judicial District attorney in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his three terms as district attorney, Mr. Peña played a leading role in the fight against the drug trade and human trafficking along the Texas-Mexico border; in 2010, he helped create and later chaired the Texas Border Prosecution Unit, which covered 17 jurisdictions and 48 counties from Brownsville to El Paso; he also served on the attorney general's Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, and he was chair of the Texas Violent Gang Task Force and executive director of the Texas Special Prosecution Unit; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Peña has held office as president and chair of the Texas District & County Attorneys Association and as president of the Children's Alliance of South Texas; moreover, he serves on the boards of a number of community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Since stepping down as district attorney, Mr. Peña has joined the cyber counterintelligence and risk management firm Axon Global as chief general counsel; in all his

endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of a caring family that includes his wife, Rachel, and his son, René; and

WHEREAS, René Peña's dedication, professionalism, and integrity greatly benefited the work of the 81st Judicial District while earning him the respect and admiration of his peers, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many achievements as he assumes the responsibilities of his new position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby commend René M. Peña for his service as the 81st Judicial District attorney and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Peña as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate