86R6541 BPG-D

By:  Herrero H.R. No. 623

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to a close with the passing of Abel Alonzo of Corpus Christi on October 14, 2017, at the age of 70; and

WHEREAS, The son of Jesse Alonzo Sr. and Valentina Mosqueda, Abel Alonzo was born in Corpus Christi on May 30, 1947, and he grew up with three brothers, Rey, Jesse, and Pete, and three sisters, Mary Elena, Rafaela, and Victoria; and

WHEREAS, When a gang-related shooting left Mr. Alonzo paralyzed at the age of 17, he responded to the challenge with courage, compassion, and resolve, becoming a tireless advocate for people with disabilities and vulnerable youth; he earned a degree in mental health from Del Mar College and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; subsequently, he pursued postgraduate studies and completed Dale Carnegie Training and a training program in American Disability Act Access Awareness and Advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alonzo established the I Believe in Me Foundation in 2012 to educate young people about the dangers of drugs and gang violence and to provide college scholarships to at-risk high school seniors; he served on the boards of Mental Health and Mental Retardation of Nueces County, the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority, and Accessible Communities, and he was also involved in such organizations as the Optimist Club, the Westside Business Association, the American GI Forum Council No. 1 Founder's Chapter, and LULAC Council No. 1; in addition, he was an active member of Nueva Esperanza Iglesia Cristiana; and

WHEREAS, Abel Alonzo gave freely of his time and expertise to improve the lives of others, and he remains a source of tremendous inspiration to those who were privileged enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Abel Alonzo and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

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