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By:  Holland H.R. No. 1621

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to a close with the death of retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Everado Lerma of Celina on March 31, 2019, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Lerma was born in Kingsville on October 12, 1934, to Francisca and Mauro Lerma Jr., and he grew up with four siblings, Mauro, Lucila, Nilda, and Ninfa; he was a star athlete at Kingsville High School, where he lettered in football, basketball, and track, and he attended Texas Tech University on a football scholarship, earning a degree in civil engineering; and

WHEREAS, After working as a laboratory instructor at Texas Tech and as an assistant highway project engineer for the State of Texas, Mr. Lerma joined the U.S. Air Force; during his outstanding career as a fighter pilot, he flew 300 combat missions in Southeast Asia without losing a plane or a crew member and earned the coveted "Top Gun" designation; his medals and commendations included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters, and the Vietnam Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, among many others; and

WHEREAS, While still in the air force, Mr. Lerma earned a master's degree in public administration from Auburn University through the USAF Air War College, and after retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel, he returned to Kingsville and served his beloved home town as city manager, securing over $15 million in grants and projects for the city during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lerma was joined in matrimony to Dr. Sandra Lanier-Lerma, and they shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 32 years; he was the proud father of three children, Carlos Lerma, Lawrence Berg Jr., and Diana Lerma Bounds, and later in life, he was blessed with eight grandchildren, Gretchen, Rachel, Elizabeth, Christopher, Cason, Caden, Haley, and Rhyan; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Lerma possessed a love of adventure and a generosity of spirit that brightened the hearts of all those who knew and loved him, and they will forever treasure their memories of time spent in his company; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Carlos Everado Lerma and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; 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 Carlos Lerma.