

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life and achievements of the Honorable José
2 Tomás Canales, a former state representative and civil rights
3 trailblazer, are being honored on the 100th anniversary of his
4 landmark 1919 investigation of the Texas Rangers; and

5 WHEREAS, Born into a prominent Nueces County ranching family
6 in 1877, J. T. Canales earned his law degree from the University of
7 Michigan; from 1900 to 1903, he practiced in Corpus Christi and
8 Laredo before settling in Brownsville, where he spent the next two
9 decades as a lawyer and a public official; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to serving as superintendent of the
11 Cameron County public schools and as a county judge, Mr. Canales
12 spent five terms as a member of the Texas House of Representatives,
13 holding office from 1905 to 1911 and from 1917 to 1921; the only
14 Hispanic state representative at the time, he provided an important
15 voice for the diverse populations living in the Lower Rio Grande
16 Valley; and

17 WHEREAS, One of Representative Canales's most notable
18 accomplishments was his 1919 investigation into the Texas Rangers
19 for their actions during the 1910s, in particular the massacre of 15
20 unarmed ethnic Mexican men and boys; the Canales Investigation, as
21 it became known, shined a light on the excessive violence carried
22 out by the Rangers against residents of Mexican descent, which
23 resulted in as many as 5,000 deaths between 1914 and 1919; though he
24 faced opposition and death threats for his efforts, Representative

1 Canales outlined numerous instances of misconduct by members of the
2 law enforcement agency, and the investigation ultimately resulted
3 in the force being reorganized and reduced in number; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Canales decided not to seek
5 reelection in 1920 and retired from state office, but he remained
6 active in Hispanic civil rights initiatives; he was integral to the
7 founding of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and he
8 served as Brownsville city attorney and chaired the Texas Council
9 on Human Rights; a lifelong believer in the importance of
10 accessible, high-quality education, he wrote numerous articles and
11 books about Mexican American history and the development of South
12 Texas; he passed away in Brownsville on March 30, 1976, at the age
13 of 99; and

14 WHEREAS, J. T. Canales was a pioneering figure in the
15 struggle for social justice in the Lone Star State, and his vision
16 and leadership remain a continuing source of inspiration; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the legacy of José Tomás Canales
20 and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Canales Investigation.

Canales

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Oliverson
Allen	Guillen	Ortega
Allison	Gutierrez	Pacheco
Anchia	Harless	Paddie
Anderson	Harris	Parker
Ashby	Hefner	Patterson
Bailes	Hernandez	Paul
Beckley	Herrero	Perez
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Phelan
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Price
Bernal	Howard	Ramos
Biedermann	Huberty	Raney
Blanco	Hunter	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Bucy	Kacal	Rosenthal
Burns	King of Hemphill	Sanford
Burrows	King of Parker	Schaefer
Button	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Cain	Klick	Sheffield
Calanni	Krause	Sherman, Sr.
Canales	Kuempel	Shine
Capriglione	Lambert	Smith
Clardy	Landgraf	Smithee
Cole	Lang	Springer
Coleman	Larson	Stephenson
Collier	Leach	Stickland
Cortez	Leman	Stucky
Craddick	Longoria	Swanson
Cyrrier	Lozano	Talarico
Darby	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Meyer	Toth
Dominguez	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Dutton	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miller	VanDeaver
Flynn	Minjarez	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Gervin-Hawkins	Murphy	Wray
Goldman	Murr	Wu
González of Dallas	Neave	Zedler
González of El Paso	Nevárez	Zerwas
Goodwin	Noble	Zwiener

H.R. No. 140

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 140 was adopted by the House on January 30, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House