

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 698

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Former Texas State Representative J. A. Garcia  
2 Jr. of Raymondville has dedicated much of his life to serving his  
3 community and his state, and he is truly deserving of special  
4 recognition; and

5           WHEREAS, Joseph Alexander Garcia Jr. was born in Brownsville  
6 in 1936 to J. A. and Bertha Garcia; after earning a bachelor's  
7 degree from the College of Agriculture at Texas A&I University in  
8 1960, he worked for 12 years as the manager of the Garcia Ranch;  
9 since 1977, he has been the owner and manager of JASA Ranch LLC; and

10           WHEREAS, In May 1968, Mr. Garcia won a special election to  
11 fill the vacant house seat for District 48-F, which encompassed  
12 Brooks, Cameron, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties, and voters returned  
13 him to office for the 61st and 62nd Legislatures; over the course of  
14 his tenure in the house, he served on the Agriculture, Livestock,  
15 Liquor Regulation, and State Affairs Committees for multiple  
16 sessions and was vice chair of the Claims Committee during the 62nd  
17 Regular Session in 1971; his accomplishments included introducing  
18 the legislation that created Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi  
19 and the bill that created a Texas Parks and Wildlife stamp to better  
20 regulate the hunting of the white wing dove; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia concluded his legislative service in  
22 1972, the same year he began his work as the chief fiscal officer  
23 for Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi, a position he held until  
24 1977; in 1983, he became the Kenedy County judge, and he continued

1 to preside over the commissioners court for 27 years before  
2 stepping down in 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, This esteemed civic leader has played an integral  
4 role in numerous community and business organizations; he was chair  
5 of the Willacy County Red Cross and the Kenedy County Democratic  
6 Executive Committee, and he held membership on the boards of the  
7 Texas A&I University Alumni Association, American Red Cross Coastal  
8 Bend Texas, the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce, Harlingen  
9 National Bank, and the Willacy County Beef Syndicate; in addition,  
10 he was a member of the Matamoros/Brownsville Bi-National Planning  
11 Commission and the Housing Commission of the Lower Rio Grande  
12 Valley Development Council; since 1996, he has served on the board  
13 of the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, and he  
14 has been the foundation's president for the past 18 years; and

15 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Garcia enjoys the love and  
16 support of his wife, the former Sue Ann Barr, and his children,  
17 J. Alex Garcia III, Felicia Ann Garcia Baldwin, and Sandra Sue  
18 Garcia Burns; and

19 WHEREAS, Known affectionately as "Sporty," J. A. Garcia has  
20 spent more than a half century working in behalf of his fellow South  
21 Texas residents, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many  
22 achievements; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable J. A. Garcia Jr. for his  
25 distinguished record of public service and extend to him sincere  
26 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Garcia as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
2 House of Representatives.