

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 924

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of former state representative Paul Cruz
2 Moreno of El Paso on September 1, 2017, at the age of 86, concluded a
3 remarkable life of service as a voice for the voiceless and most
4 vulnerable; and

5 WHEREAS, A legislator for more than four decades, Mr. Moreno
6 was first elected in 1966 and fought tirelessly for the poor, people
7 of color, low-income workers, people with disabilities, and others
8 confronting barriers to full participation in the American Dream;
9 he pushed for legislation requiring developers to provide water and
10 sanitation to colonias, and he strove to make public buildings and
11 transportation more accessible to people with disabilities; in
12 addition, he challenged the state's public school financing system,
13 sought to regulate college tuition, and advocated for better
14 teacher salaries; he also worked to pass a minimum wage bill; his
15 fierce dedication and strong moral compass earned him a reputation
16 as the "Conscience of the House"; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. Moreno was part of the "Dirty Thirty,"
18 a bipartisan group that opposed the speaker and other officials
19 charged with corruption; as a member of the Higher Education
20 Committee, he successfully championed greater access to
21 opportunity and played a key role in enhancing support for The
22 University of Texas at El Paso; he further served as vice chair of
23 the Redistricting, Urban Affairs, and State, Federal, and
24 International Relations Committees, as well as the Retirement and

1 Aging Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight, and he was the
2 inaugural chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Moreno was acknowledged as the first Mexican
4 American "Dean of the Texas House" when he became its longest
5 tenured member in 2007, and the National Association of Latino
6 Elected and Appointed Officials recognized him as the longest
7 serving Hispanic public official in the country; among myriad
8 accolades, he received the PUSH Excel National Award, and the El
9 Paso Independent School District named Paul C. Moreno Elementary
10 School in his honor in 1996; and

11 WHEREAS, An El Paso native, Mr. Moreno was born to Avelina
12 Ramirez and Reyes Moreno Sr. on April 28, 1931, and grew up with 11
13 siblings; he began his community organizing at the age of 14,
14 helping to launch the first Catholic Youth Organization in his
15 hometown; three years later, he dropped out of Bowie High School to
16 enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he became a highly decorated
17 veteran of the Korean War; he went on to work as a Marine recruiter
18 until a diving accident left him a quadriplegic; never limited by
19 his need for a wheelchair, he graduated from UTEP and The University
20 of Texas School of Law; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Moreno was a dynamic leader in the Chicano
22 Movement and in a host of organizations, among them the Mexican
23 American Bar Association, the Democratic Party, the El Paso Legal
24 Assistance Society, and Tejano Democrats; he was a wise mentor to
25 generations of public servants, and he was admired by all for his
26 unsparing honesty, as well as his integrity, humility, and profound
27 compassion; and

1 WHEREAS, Devoted to his large extended family, Mr. Moreno was
2 the proud father of a daughter, Annette, as well as the grandfather
3 of Innette, Evette, and Amarette, and great-grandfather of Josiah
4 and Ariaiah; and

5 WHEREAS, Paul Moreno is deeply missed, but his exceptional
6 contributions continue to resonate, and his legacy remains a
7 lasting source of inspiration; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the Honorable Paul Cruz Moreno
10 and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of former
15 state representative Paul Cruz Moreno.