

By: Holland

H.R. No. 1621

R E S O L U T I O N

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

5 WHEREAS, Carlos Lerma was born in Kingsville on October 12,  
6 1934, to Francisca and Mauro Lerma Jr., and he grew up with four  
7 siblings, Mauro, Lucila, Nilda, and Ninfa; he was a star athlete at  
8 Kingsville High School, where he lettered in football, basketball,  
9 and track, and he attended Texas Tech University on a football  
10 scholarship, earning a degree in civil engineering; and

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

21 WHEREAS, While still in the air force, Mr. Lerma earned a  
22 master's degree in public administration from Auburn University  
23 through the USAF Air War College, and after retiring at the rank of  
24 lieutenant colonel, he returned to Kingsville and served his

1 beloved home town as city manager, securing over \$15 million in  
2 grants and projects for the city during his tenure; and

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

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

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

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carlos  
20 Lerma.