

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 740

In Memory
of
Carlos Everado Lerma

WHEREAS, Family and friends will long cherish their memories of United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Carlos Everado Lerma, who passed away on March 31, 2019, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Born in Kingsville on October 12, 1934, Carlos Lerma was the son of Mauro and Francisca Lerma, and he was raised with four siblings, Mauro, Lucila, Nilda, and Ninfa; a standout athlete at Kingsville High School, he earned a football scholarship to Texas Tech University, where he graduated with a civil engineering degree; he began his career as a civil engineering laboratory instructor at Texas Tech, and he later worked for the State of Texas as an assistant highway project engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lerma subsequently joined the United States Air Force, serving two tours in Southeast Asia as operations officer for three squadrons; a skilled pilot, he received the "Top Gun" title, and he flew 300 combat missions without losing a plane or crew member; he ultimately retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel, and he was recognized for his valiant efforts with a number of commendations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters, and the Vietnam Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; along the way, he also obtained a master's degree in public administration through the USAF Air War College; and

WHEREAS, Returning home to South Texas, Mr. Lerma was named city manager of Kingsville, and during his distinguished tenure, he helped secure millions of dollars in grants and projects for the community; an esteemed civic leader, he was the first Kleberg County resident to receive a Road Hand award from the Texas Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Lerma enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Dr. Sandra Lanier-Lerma, with whom he shared more than three decades of marriage; he took great pride in his three children, Carlos, Lawrence, and Diana, and his cherished family grew to include eight grandchildren, Gretchen, Rachel, Elizabeth, Christopher, Cason, Caden, Haley, and Rhyan; known for his sense of adventure, Mr. Lerma found pleasure in fishing and hunting; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Lerma lived a rich and purposeful life devoted to the service of his country and his community, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Carlos Everado Lerma and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carlos Lerma.

Fallon, Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2019, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate