

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 55

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of Joel A. Garza of Weslaco on June 21, 2021, at the age of  
3 84; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Weslaco on April 18, 1937, Joe Garza was the  
5 son of Victor and Josefa Martinez Garza, and he grew up with the  
6 companionship of four siblings, Humberto, Maria, Nora, and Victor;  
7 in 1956, he graduated from Weslaco High School, where he played  
8 running back and helped the Panther football team advance to the  
9 state semifinals in 1955; he later attended St. Mary's University  
10 while serving with the Texas National Guard; and

11           WHEREAS, Following his honorable discharge in 1962,  
12 Mr. Garza began his career in social work with the Texas Department  
13 of Public Welfare; he served as an administrator for government  
14 assistance programs and retired in 1990 as a program director with  
15 the Texas Department of Human Services; dedicated to his community,  
16 he gave generously of his time and talents to numerous  
17 organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, the Boy Scouts of  
18 America, the American Cancer Society, and Valley Interfaith; in  
19 addition, he was active in city politics and was instrumental in  
20 Weslaco adopting single-member districts; he was also passionate  
21 about agriculture, and he farmed various crops in the United States  
22 and Mexico, growing all of his produce organically; and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Garza married the former Maria Evangelina  
24 Hinojosa in September 1961, and the couple shared a rewarding union

1 that spanned nearly six decades; he was the proud father of 6  
2 children, Cynthia, Melinda, Jaime, Judith, Angela, and Joel, and  
3 over the years, he was further blessed with 17 grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, Joe Garza possessed a generosity of spirit that  
5 expressed itself in myriad ways, and he enriched the lives of  
6 countless people with his warmth and kindness; now, therefore, be  
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
9 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
10 of Joel A. Garza and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
11 family: to his wife, Evangelina Garza; to his children, Cynthia  
12 Cardenas and her husband, Gilbert, Melinda Garza and her husband,  
13 Bernie, Jaime Garza and his wife, Terri, Judith Blas and her  
14 husband, Jesse, Angela Cantu and her husband, Robert, and Joel  
15 Garza and his wife, Lindsey; to his brother, Victor Garza and his  
16 wife, Elva; to his brother-in-law, Claudio Perez; to his  
17 grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it  
18 further

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