

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 59

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 death of Joseph LaMantia Jr. of McAllen on June 14, 2021, at the age
3 of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Joe LaMantia was born to Joseph and Verna LaMantia
5 in 1933, and he grew up in South Texas with five sisters, Marie,
6 Ann, Shirley, Verna, and Joan; his family settled in the Rio Grande
7 Valley in 1965, and in 1977 Mr. LaMantia started L&F Distributors,
8 a wholesale beer distribution company which has since grown to
9 encompass seven locations with nearly 1,100 employees serving 53
10 counties across the Lone Star State; and

11 WHEREAS, A longtime champion of education, Mr. LaMantia
12 established one of the first scholarships for women athletes at The
13 University of Texas-Pan American, and the scholarship was named for
14 his first wife, Ann LaMantia, who passed away in 1983; in addition,
15 L&F Distributors raised more than \$5 million over eight years for
16 the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and in 2002 he established the Stars
17 Scholarship Fund, which has disbursed over \$35 million to more than
18 17,000 students in South and West Texas; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. LaMantia served on the board of the Texas
20 Department of Corrections for 15 years, and he was an active
21 supporter of the Rio Grande Cancer Treatment Research Foundation,
22 the American Heart Association, the South Texas Communities for
23 Youth Service, and the Special Olympics, among many other
24 worthwhile organizations; he was recognized as Border Texan of the

1 Year and as a Distinguished Citizen by the Boy Scouts of America Rio
2 Grande Council, and his numerous other honors include the Citizen
3 of the Year award from The University of Texas Health Science Center
4 at San Antonio, the Bridge Builder Award from UTPA, and the Golden
5 Eagle Award from the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of
6 Commerce; and

7 WHEREAS, Following the death of his first wife, Mr. LaMantia
8 went on to share a rewarding marriage with Derrelene LaMantia that
9 spanned 36 years; he was a devoted father to his children, Val, Joe,
10 Greg, Steve, and Tony, and his stepchildren, Jennifer and Lori, and
11 he was eventually blessed with many grandchildren and
12 great-grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, A leader in his community, a successful
14 entrepreneur, and a generous philanthropist, Joe LaMantia leaves
15 behind a record of service that will continue to inspire all those
16 who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
18 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
19 of Joseph LaMantia Jr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family
20 and his many friends; and, be it further

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