

By: Miles

S.R. No. 83

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, All who shared in the life of Manuel Valdes LaFont Jr. were deeply saddened by his untimely death in June 2021, at the age of 54; and

WHEREAS, Born in Houston on January 27, 1967, Manny LaFont was the son of Myriam Matilde Manresa de Valdes-LaFont and Manuel Valdes LaFont, who both emigrated from Cuba; he grew up in the Robindell neighborhood with two sisters and attended Richmond Elementary School and Sharpstown Junior and Senior High Schools; a talented athlete and baseball fanatic, he was a member of Little League and high school teams and played at Hill College and in a local Cuban league; after completing his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Houston, he embarked on a career in the road safety industry; he eventually moved to the Miami, Florida, area and led a division of Lindsay Transportation Solutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. LaFont and his former wife, Adriana LaFont, were the proud parents of a daughter, Mia, and a son, Santi; his world revolved around his children, and almost every day, he rode bikes with them on the beach, took them to the park, and played baseball with his son; as coach of his son's baseball team, the Astros, he was kind and encouraging to all of the players, offering positive reinforcement for good efforts and personal improvement; when team members moved on, he stayed in touch with

their parents and continued to follow their progress; he volunteered as a youth basketball coach as well; and

WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, Mr. LaFont was a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church, where his children attended school; his big heart, big personality, and marvelous sense of humor brought him a host of friendships, and he always stayed especially close to his Houston schoolmates, including many he had known since kindergarten; during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was a steadfast source of support and consolation to those in his circle, talking for hours on the phone about their challenges; he never hesitated to express his love to those he held dear; and

WHEREAS, Manny LaFont possessed a generosity of spirit that revealed itself in myriad ways, and although his loss is difficult to bear, memories of joyous times spent in his company will forever illuminate the lives of those he left behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Manuel Valdes "Manny" LaFont Jr. and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

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 Manuel Valdes "Manny" LaFont.