H.R. No. 686

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends of Elmo López Sr. of Laredo, who passed away on March 15, 2021, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, Elmo López was born in Rio Grande City on October 7, 1927, to Jose Maria López and Maria Piña López, and he grew up on El Rucio Ranch in Starr County with the companionship of seven siblings, Ofelia, Josefina, Maria, Alonso, Jose Maria, Humberto, and Ruben; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by the big bands of his youth, Mr. López started his own ensemble, Elmo López and his Orchestra, to help put himself through The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music; he was the first band director of Lamar Junior High School, and during his decade-long tenure at Martin High School, he brought the first University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes Competition to Laredo in 1956; he went on to serve as band director of Nixon High School, and in 1967, he opened the first music store in Laredo specializing in band instruments; in later years, he came out of retirement to serve as the inaugural director of bands of Texas A&M International University; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his career as a music educator, Mr. López devoted himself to his family's cattle ranch, often traveling to livestock auctions; a true servant leader, he was a passionate advocate for education, raising scholarship money for Laredo students to attend The University of Texas; in 1987, he founded the Laredo chapter of the Texas Exes alumni association, and he held a seat on the board of the UT Dad's Association for 12 years, serving for a time as president; his many honors include an honorary doctorate from TAMIU, and in 1963, the noted composer and UT music professor James Clifton Williams dedicated a work, the "Laredo Paso Doble," to Mr. López; and

WHEREAS, Mr. López enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Consuelo Flores López, with whom he shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 65 years; he proudly lined the walls of his ranch house with photos of his family, which grew to include 5 children, Elmo, Linda, Cristina, Jose Humberto, and the late Ana Laura López, 11 grandchildren, Veronica, Amanda, Elmo Daniel, Andrew, Alexandra, Cristian, Diego, Andrea, Leopoldo Humberto, Ana Victoria, and Laura Cecilia, and 2 great-grandchildren, Viviana and Jorge; and

WHEREAS, Elmo López was a pillar of his community, a loving family man, and a gifted educator who brought out the best in all who knew him, and they will forever remember the positive influence he had on their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Elmo López Sr. and extend sincere sympathy 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 House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elmo López Sr.

Raymond

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 686 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 23, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the House