H.R. No. 1455

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The city of El Paso lost an admired champion for educational opportunity with the death of Ricardo V. Aranda on April 5, 2021, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, Ricardo Aranda was born in El Paso to Alfredo and Juana Aranda on August 18, 1941; answering his nation's call to duty, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, The first person in his family to attend college, Mr. Aranda was a lifelong advocate for higher education, dedicating himself to expanding access for students in the region; in the early 1970s, he was the director of El Paso's Educational Talent Search, where he worked to identify and assist young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in their efforts to receive a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Aranda joined the staff of The University of Texas at El Paso as assistant director of financial aid, and over the course of his 30 years with UTEP, he rose to become director of financial aid and assistant vice president of student affairs; in 1986, he organized FAFSA Nights, a series of evening workshops hosted by financial aid officers and volunteers at local schools, in order to assist students in filling out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid; this initiative helped El Paso to achieve the highest FAFSA completion rates in the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Aranda further distinguished himself by developing a training program for area high school counselors that included an annual workshop and a summer internship for hands-on experience; he also served as a mentor to numerous younger financial aid professionals, many of whom have gone on to leadership positions in the field; in recognition of his tireless efforts over a lifetime, his family established the Ricardo V. Aranda Memorial Endowed Scholarship at UTEP; and

WHEREAS, Through his exceptional contributions, Ricardo Aranda made a lasting, positive impact in the El Paso community, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ricardo V. Aranda and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family: to his daughter, Barbara Anne Pierce, and her husband, Alan; to his brother, Hector Aranda; to his companion of 19 years, Esther Barragan; to his grandchildren, Ashley and Robbie; to his great-grandchildren, Liam, Cody, Alysia, and Gabriela; and to his many other relatives and friends; 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 Ricardo V. Aranda.

Fierro

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1455 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 26, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House