

By: Morales of Maverick

H.R. No. 298

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Bertha Venegas of the National Resources  
2 Conservation Service is the 2020 recipient of the agency's National  
3 Individual Civil Rights Award; and

4           WHEREAS, Originally known as the Soil Conservation Service,  
5 the NRCS is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that  
6 provides farmers and ranchers with assistance in making  
7 conservation improvements to their land; the National Individual  
8 Civil Rights Award recognizes a person who has made a significant  
9 contribution to the agency's civil rights program; and

10           WHEREAS, Growing up on a cattle ranch in Eagle Pass, Bertha  
11 Venegas raised show lambs and won college scholarships from the  
12 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; after earning her bachelor's  
13 degree in agriculture at Southwest Texas State University, she  
14 joined the SCS in 1988 and began her career as a technician in her  
15 hometown; she was promoted to district conservationist in Johnson  
16 City, and in 1997, she became an NRCS resource conservation and  
17 development coordinator in San Antonio; appointed as a state  
18 outreach specialist in 2011, she now works out of the field office  
19 in Boerne; and

20           WHEREAS, Ms. Venegas has served as acting national Hispanic  
21 Emphasis Program manager, and she focuses her efforts on  
22 historically underserved farmers and ranchers; in 2018, she  
23 established the Texas Urban and Rural Conservation Project and  
24 Project G.R.E.E.N. (Growing Roots for Education, Environment, and

1 Nutrition), a grant program directed at schools; in 2020, she  
2 oversaw the distribution of more than \$175,000 through TURCP and  
3 \$112,000 through Project G.R.E.E.N.; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Venegas has won the National Individual Civil  
5 Rights Award once before, in 1997, and she has also been recognized  
6 as Outstanding RC&D Coordinator for the Southwest Region of RC&D  
7 Councils and received Visionary and Leadership Awards from the  
8 National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees, as  
9 well as a Service Award from the Latinos in Agriculture  
10 organization; in addition to her post in Boerne, she is also Farm  
11 Production and Conservation beginning farmer and rancher  
12 coordinator for Texas, advisor to the Texas Civil Rights Advisory  
13 Committee, and the Texas limited English proficiency coordinator;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Bertha Venegas's dedication, expertise, and  
16 commitment to civil rights outreach have greatly benefited the  
17 farmers and ranchers of the Lone Star State, and she may indeed take  
18 great pride in this prestigious recognition of her many  
19 achievements; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Bertha Venegas on her receipt of  
22 the National Individual Civil Rights Award and extend to her  
23 sincere best wishes for continued success in her important work;  
24 and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for Ms. Venegas as an expression of high regard by the  
27 Texas House of Representatives.