

By: Canales

H.R. No. 343

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Ben Leonel Garza, an esteemed member of the
2 Edinburg community and a dear friend to many, passed away on
3 February 5, 2021, at the age of 82; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Mercedes on January 17, 1939, to Leoncio and
5 Nellie Chapa Garza, Ben Garza grew up with nine brothers and
6 sisters; after graduating from The University of Texas College of
7 Pharmacy in 1961, he managed his family's drug store in McAllen and
8 subsequently went on to attend medical school at the UT Medical
9 Branch at Galveston; during his 45-year career as a physician, he
10 practiced at the Edinburg Regional Medical Center alongside four of
11 his brothers; and

12 WHEREAS, An avid sports fan, Dr. Garza was the longtime
13 doctor for athletic teams at UT-Pan American and the Edinburg
14 school district; he was recognized on many occasions for his
15 outstanding work with these programs, receiving such accolades as
16 the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame Distinguished Service
17 Award in 2009, induction into the UTPA Athletics Hall of Honor in
18 2010, and the UTPA Broncs Leadership Award in 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to serving as an Edinburg school board
20 trustee, Dr. Garza held prominent leadership roles in the Texas
21 Jaycees, the American Cancer Society, and American Humanics, and he
22 was a Hidalgo County health officer and a member of the Edinburg
23 Urban Renewal Board; he also had the distinction of serving on the
24 Governor's Advisory Board for Juvenile Justice and Crime

1 Prevention, as well as the State Bar of Texas Commission for Lawyer
2 Discipline; moreover, he was a retired 20-year veteran of the Texas
3 National Guard, and he volunteered his time in various capacities
4 with the Boy Scouts of America; the honors he received for his
5 service included the American Heart Association Heart of Gold Award
6 in 2000 and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce General Physician of
7 the Year Award in 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Garza enjoyed the love and
9 support of his wife of 32 years, Patty Garza; he was the proud
10 father of seven children, Loretta, Veronica, Brooke, Brennan, Ben,
11 Steven, and Cesar, and he was further blessed with eight
12 grandchildren, Tucker, Olivia, Lauren, Hailey, Lily, Leslie, Gabi,
13 and Ava; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Ben Garza lived a life that was extraordinarily
15 rich in personal and professional accomplishments, and those who
16 knew and loved him will forever find inspiration in his admirable
17 legacy; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Ben Leonel
20 Garza and extend deepest sympathy to all those who mourn his
21 passing; and, be it further

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