

By: Canales

H.R. No. 374

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rio Grande Valley residents lost a dedicated
2 champion with the passing of former state representative Sergio
3 Muñoz Sr. on July 30, 2020, at the age of 68; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Paulino Muñoz Sr. and Celia Cantu Muñoz,
5 Sergio Muñoz was born in Mission on January 20, 1952, and grew up in
6 Los Ebanos with 10 siblings; he worked in the fields at an early
7 age, and as a teenager, he began playing trumpet in such bands as
8 Henry and the Glares and Carlos Guzman y los Jovenes; while touring
9 across the country, he developed his talents as a vocalist,
10 songwriter, and arranger, and he eventually formed his own band,
11 Sergio Muñoz y los Incas; he graduated as valedictorian of La Joya
12 High School and turned down an appointment to West Point in order to
13 continue earning money for his family while completing his
14 bachelor's degree in social work at The University of Texas-Pan
15 American; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Muñoz ran for the school board in La Joya when he
17 was just 18, beginning a life of civic engagement; he served
18 Palmview as city manager and as a municipal judge, and in 1993, he
19 became the first individual to represent the newly created Texas
20 House District 36; over the course of two terms, he served on the
21 transportation, county affairs, and elections committees; he was
22 involved with examining problems with early voting by mail and
23 exercising oversight of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, as well
24 as other issues; through the years, he encouraged countless people

1 to seek public office and coordinated and advised campaigns at all
2 levels; he was a tireless coalition-builder, always ready to work
3 across the aisle or set aside past differences for the good of the
4 community; and

5 WHEREAS, After leaving office, Mr. Muñoz continued to
6 advance local interests and was very active in the community; he was
7 a source of wise counsel to many in politics, including his son,
8 State Representative Sergio Muñoz Jr., and he served the Hidalgo
9 County Democratic Party as first vice chair and chair for Precinct
10 78; in addition, he sought to expand voter registration, improve
11 public education, and raise teacher salaries; he held leadership
12 roles in the Knights of Columbus and gave generously of his time and
13 expertise to the Private Industry Council, Lions Club, Tripa Club,
14 and La Joya ISD Educational Excellence Foundation, among other
15 organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, In private life, Mr. Muñoz operated the Muñoz
17 Insurance Agency and also worked in residential and commercial land
18 development; he later entered the health care industry, owning
19 businesses offering home health care services, and he often
20 provided assistance to people who could not afford appropriate
21 care; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Muñoz was devoted to his wife of 44 years,
23 Connie Bazan Muñoz, and he took great pride in their two children,
24 Marla and Sergio, and eight grandchildren, Gael, Carolina, Sofia,
25 Aleksandro, Arianna, Sergio, Caterina, and Maria Elena; in
26 addition, he was very close to his nephews J. J. and Gerardo and
27 niece Selina; he especially loved traveling with his family to

1 Austin for Longhorn football games; most mornings he could be found
2 surrounded by friends as he made his circuit of local restaurants,
3 coffee cup in hand, and he was happy to lend an ear to anyone who
4 needed to talk; and

5 WHEREAS, Although the death of Sergio Muñoz Sr. has brought
6 great sorrow to those he left behind, they will forever treasure
7 their memories of his warmth, kindness, and steadfast commitment to
8 the Rio Grande Valley; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Sergio Muñoz Sr. and
11 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
16 Honorable Sergio Muñoz Sr.