

By: King of Uvalde

H.R. No. 528

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their
2 memories of the Honorable Juan Cornejo, civil rights activist and
3 former mayor of Crystal City, who died on January 20, 2021, at the
4 age of 90; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Crystal City to Espiridion and Ysidora
6 Cornejo, Juan Cornejo grew up with nine siblings, Pedro, Sylvano,
7 Jose, Francisco, Maria, Luis, Robert, Luz, and Christina; he was
8 the proud father of a daughter, Olga, and he also took great pride
9 in his nephew, Jim, and his nieces, Gabrielle and Melinda, whom he
10 raised as his own; later in life, he was pleased to welcome into his
11 family two grandchildren, Ricardo and Cassandra, and seven
12 great-grandchildren, Julissa Brianne, Kalista, Brandon, Guadalupe,
13 Rylee, Mazelle, and Miranda; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1963, Mr. Cornejo played a leading role in the
15 Crystal City Revolts, when Mexican Americans fought for their right
16 to political representation in the city's government; serving at
17 the time as a Teamster representative at the California Packing
18 Corporation cannery, he and four other Mexican Americans ran for
19 city council as "Los Cinco Candidatos" and won despite fierce
20 resistance; Mr. Cornejo was selected from among the five to become
21 the city's first Mexican American mayor, and he served until 1966;
22 during the campaign that led to the famous March on Washington, he
23 was a guest speaker alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before
24 20,000 people at a Freedom Rally at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles in

1 May 1963; and

2 WHEREAS, A true son of Crystal City, Juan Cornejo won the
3 respect and affection of all who knew him, and he leaves behind a
4 legacy of selflessness and dedication to social justice that will
5 continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Juan Cornejo and
8 extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Juan
13 Cornejo.