

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 1455

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

8 WHEREAS, The first person in his family to attend college,  
9 Mr. Aranda was a lifelong advocate for higher education, dedicating  
10 himself to expanding access for students in the region; in the early  
11 1970s, he was the director of El Paso's Educational Talent Search,  
12 where he worked to identify and assist young people from  
13 disadvantaged backgrounds in their efforts to receive a  
14 postsecondary education; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Aranda further distinguished himself by

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

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

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

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ricardo V.  
23 Aranda.