

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1970

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Over the course of their lives, Lauro and Maria
2 Celia Lopez shared an enduring love story, and their family is
3 celebrating the couple's legacy of commitment; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Rio Grande City, Lauro L. Lopez was born
5 on May 20, 1924, to Otila Zarate and Ernesto Lopez; after graduating
6 from Rio Grande City High School, he enlisted in the United States
7 Army in 1943; he was deployed to Shrivenham, England, where he was
8 stationed at the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and
9 he went on to serve as a medical clerk-typist at a field hospital in
10 Europe; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was honorably discharged in 1946, and
12 after returning home, he studied geology at The University of Texas
13 at Austin; for a time, he worked in the garment district in New York
14 while pursuing a career in photography; in 1948, he moved back to
15 Rio Grande City, where he sold cars, worked on the Falcon Dam
16 project, and found employment at LFD Furniture Store; and

17 WHEREAS, Maria Celia Lopez was born in Rio Grande City on
18 November 6, 1928, to Mateo and Hortencia Saenz; she graduated from
19 Rio Grande City High School in 1945, and she subsequently earned her
20 license to become a hairdresser, her lifelong passion; she went on
21 to open the Co-ed Beauty Shop, which she ran for 22 years; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Lopez shared a remarkable 67 years of
23 marriage; their family grew to include five children, Daniel,
24 Diana, Dalinda, Delia, and David Lauro Lopez, who preceded his

1 parents in death, as well as a number of grandchildren and
2 great-grandchildren; partners in life as well as in business, the
3 couple owned and operated Triple L Furniture & Appliance, which
4 Mr. Lopez opened in 1970, with Mrs. Lopez serving as the store's
5 office manager; after 35 years, they closed the store and retired in
6 2005; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Lopez were actively involved in a
8 number of organizations; Mr. Lopez served as president of the Rio
9 Grande City Chamber of Commerce and vice president of the Rio Grande
10 Valley Partnership, and he helped lead the successful effort to
11 reincorporate Rio Grande City in 1993; he held other prominent
12 positions in the community as mayor pro tempore, city alderman, and
13 chair of the South Texas Economic Development Corporation, and in
14 1999, he was appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush to the South
15 Texas Development Council, where he chaired the board of directors;
16 a charter member of his local Rotary Club, he was a recipient of the
17 Paul Harris Fellow award in 1997; and

18 WHEREAS, Both husband and wife were parishioners of
19 Immaculate Conception Church and active members of the Order of the
20 Alhambra, El Cid Caravan No. 106, which Mr. Lopez led as grand
21 commander; Mr. Lopez was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, while
22 Mrs. Lopez was involved in her children's education as a PTA member
23 of the Immaculate Conception School, and she also participated in
24 the Sewing Club and other organizations; they enjoyed traveling
25 throughout the United States and the world and socializing with
26 their many friends; Mr. Lopez passed away on June 25, 2016, at the
27 age of 92, and Mrs. Lopez passed away on March 19, 2018, at the age

1 of 89; and

2 WHEREAS, Through their commitment to their family, their
3 faith, and their community, Lauro and Maria Celia Lopez touched the
4 lives of countless people during their time on this earth, and they
5 will forever be remembered with admiration by all those who held
6 them dear; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Lauro and Maria
9 Celia Lopez; and, be it further

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