

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a Texas football legend drew to a close
2 with the passing of René Javier Ramirez of McAllen on June 20, 2023,
3 at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on July 11, 1937, in Hebbronville, René Ramirez
5 was the son of Dora and Tomas Ramirez and grew up with the
6 companionship of three brothers, Hector, Tomas, and Gregorio; he
7 first gained acclaim at Hebbronville High School, where he
8 graduated as valedictorian and lettered in football, baseball,
9 basketball, band, and track and field; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ramirez went on to attend The University of
11 Texas at Austin and earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical
12 engineering; nicknamed the Galloping Gaucho for his tremendous
13 speed as a runner, he was a standout halfback on the Longhorn
14 football team, leading the team in touchdowns in 1957 and tying for
15 the lead in 1958; during his three seasons on the gridiron, he was a
16 gifted two-way player and recorded four interceptions, and in 1959,
17 he was an All-Southwest Conference selection; among his many
18 accolades, he is a member of the Hebbronville High School Hall of
19 Fame, the Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame, the
20 National Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame, and the Rusk Athletic Club
21 Hall of Fame in Houston, and in 2013, he was inducted into the Texas
22 Athletics Hall of Honor; and

23 WHEREAS, Following his collegiate football career,
24 Mr. Ramirez found success selling insurance with American

1 Amicable, working as an engineer for Mobil Oil, and owning several
2 businesses; in August 2013, he retired from the Texas General Land
3 Office as an appraiser; in addition, he founded the René Ramirez
4 Youth Development Camp to help underprivileged children in East
5 Austin, and he gave motivational speeches at schools; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Ramirez shared 28 years with his first wife, the
7 former Jo Marie Hill; fortunate to find love again, he wed Becky
8 Ramirez, and the couple enjoyed 34 years together; he took great
9 pride in his 9 children, Teresa, Eric, Celeste, Alan, Rene, Carlos,
10 Jo Rikki, Adrian, and Emmanuel, and with the passing years, his
11 family grew to include 11 grandchildren, Rene Elic, Riana, Roxanne,
12 Miranda, Andres, Gabrielle, Mariana, Alan, Xavier, Eliamar, and
13 Ezra, and 10 great-grandchildren, Mia, Beau, Gael, Atlas, Whitt,
14 Ava, Mila, Ocean, Luka, and Britten; and

15 WHEREAS, An engaged citizen, a devoted family man, and a
16 consummate Longhorn, René Ramirez leaves behind a legacy that will
17 long be remembered by all those who knew and loved him; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
20 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
21 René Javier Ramirez and extend sincere condolences to his loved
22 ones; and, be it further

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