

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 142

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed jurist drew to a close with
2 the passing of the Honorable Fortunato Pedro Benavides of Austin on
3 May 5, 2023, at the age of 76; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Adán and Pilar Benavides, "Pete"
5 Benavides was born in Mission on February 3, 1947, and he grew up in
6 McAllen with the companionship of eight siblings, Tony, Adán,
7 Gabriel, Liza, Mary Lou, John Lee, Joe, and Ray; after graduating
8 from McAllen Senior High School in 1965, he went on to earn a
9 bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of
10 Houston as well as a law degree from the UH Law Center; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Benavides entered private practice as a
12 litigator in McAllen, and in 1977, he began a two-year tenure as a
13 judge on the Hidalgo County Court at Law; he then returned to
14 private practice before winning election to the 92nd District Court
15 in Hidalgo County in 1981; three years later, he was appointed to
16 the Thirteenth Court of Appeals of Texas by Governor Mark White, and
17 he joined the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals after receiving an
18 appointment from Governor Ann Richards in 1991; in the subsequent
19 years, he presided over numerous Texas state courts, and for a time,
20 he was a partner at the Atlas & Hall law firm in McAllen; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1994, Judge Benavides was appointed to the
22 U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton, and
23 he further distinguished himself through his service on the
24 judicial council of the Fifth Circuit; he assumed senior status in

1 2012; moreover, he was active in the Judicial Conference of the
2 United States, and he was a member of the committees on
3 international judicial relations and the administration of the
4 bankruptcy system; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Benavides also found time to serve as a member
6 of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for several years, and
7 he established the Ramiro H. Guerra Youth Village, a residential
8 facility in Weslaco for juvenile offenders; among his many
9 achievements, he was named one of 53 "Faces of Hope" by President
10 Bill Clinton in 1993; and

11 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Judge Benavides enjoyed the
12 love and support of his wife, Evelyn; he was the father of three
13 children, Amanda, Adelaide, and the late Ramon Joseph Benavides,
14 who died in infancy; with the passing years, his treasured family
15 grew to include two grandsons, Noah and Milo; and

16 WHEREAS, Although Pete Benavides is deeply missed by those he
17 left behind, his legacy of service will be remembered and admired
18 for years to come; now, 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 Judge Fortunato Pedro "Pete" Benavides and extend heartfelt
22 sympathy to his loved 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 Judge
26 Benavides.