

By: Davis

H.R. No. 105

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Dallas lost an admired civic leader  
2 with the passing of Trinidad Perales Garza on November 30, 2023, at  
3 the age of 92; and

4           WHEREAS, Born to Gabriel and Carmen Garza on September 22,  
5 1931, Trini Garza grew up in Floresville; the untimely deaths of his  
6 parents left him to care for three younger siblings as a teenager;  
7 while working in San Antonio, he attended night school and joined  
8 the U.S. Navy Reserve; he was called to active duty during the  
9 Korean War and received the National Defense Service Medal; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Garza resumed his education in San Antonio,  
11 where he met his future wife, Benilde Mendoza; after completing his  
12 bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Texas A&M  
13 University, he began working for LTV Corporation in Dallas; he and  
14 Mrs. Garza opened Rancho Restaurant in the early 1970s and  
15 introduced the wider public to fajitas as pioneering Latino  
16 concessionaires at the State Fair of Texas; in 2023, the family  
17 celebrated 40 years at the fair, where they now operate multiple  
18 stands; Mrs. Garza passed away in 2014; and

19           WHEREAS, A champion of education and his community, Mr. Garza  
20 became the first Hispanic trustee of the Dallas Independent School  
21 District in 1969; he was a member of the Tri-Ethnic Committee  
22 overseeing desegregation and served on the board again from 1991  
23 until 1994, when he was appointed deputy regional director of the  
24 U.S. Department of Education; in 2010, DISD named the Trinidad

1 "Trini" Garza Early College High School at Mountain View in his  
2 honor; Mr. Garza served his community in numerous other roles as  
3 well, including as regional director of the ACTION federal agency;  
4 an advocate for greater representation on city and county boards  
5 and commissions, he organized the city's first Mexican American  
6 Leadership Conference and mentored the next generation of Hispanic  
7 leaders; he further benefited his fellow citizens as director of La  
8 Voz del Anciano, as chair of the Dallas Commission on Aging, as a  
9 founding member of the board of Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and as  
10 president of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;  
11 sustained by a strong faith, he was very active in the United  
12 Methodist Church; and

13 WHEREAS, Although Trini Garza's death has brought great  
14 sorrow to those who loved him, his life was an inspiring example of  
15 the good that one person can accomplish; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
18 of Trini Garza and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
19 family: to his children, Jerome Garza and his wife, Paula, Norma  
20 Garza, Bernice Robledo and her husband, Richard, and Denise Garza  
21 De La Cruz and her husband, Juan; to his 12 grandchildren, 16  
22 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren; and to his  
23 many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

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