

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their
2 memories of Leonel R. Garza of Freer, who died on July 16, 2022, at
3 the age of 82; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on July 4, 1940, to Lazaro and Olivia Garza,
5 Leonel Garza grew up with 12 siblings, Maria, Ofelia, Carmen,
6 Lupita, Hane, Rosa, Liz, Gloria, Mandy, Eloy, Larry, and Gilbert;
7 in his youth, he did migrant work in Texas and the Midwest, and he
8 was a star athlete at Benavides High School, where he graduated in
9 1959; answering his nation's call to duty, he enlisted in the
10 U.S. Marine Corps and served until his honorable discharge in 1968
11 at the rank of corporal; he married the former Elda Garcia in 1961,
12 and they became the proud parents of five daughters, Leticia, Nori,
13 Noelia, Elsa, and Imelda; later in life, he was blessed with 12
14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Mr. Garza and his family settled in
16 Freer, where he became the manager of the Center Circle Texaco
17 station and went on to found the Muy Grande store; in 1976, he began
18 a career selling ranches and serving as a ranch consultant that
19 spanned half a century; he was also active as a member of the school
20 board, the sportsman's club, the chamber of commerce, and the Lions
21 Club, as well as the Duval County Groundwater Conservation
22 District; and

23 WHEREAS, A celebrated outdoorsman, Mr. Garza founded the Muy
24 Grande Deer Contest in 1965, one of the largest such contests in the

1 world; he wrote and created many books and videos about the
2 competition, and he designed the Muy Grande camouflage pattern; as
3 a hunter, he personally collected more than 20,000 heads of
4 whitetail deer; his many honors include awards from the City of
5 Freer and the Texas Senate and House of Representatives, as well as
6 the Gene Riser Award from the Texas Deer Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Leonel Garza lived a rich and purposeful life, and
8 he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all those
9 who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Leonel R. Garza and
12 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family and to his
13 many friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Leonel
17 Garza.

Guillen

H.R. No. 2536

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2536 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 29, 2023.

Chief Clerk of the House