

By: González of El Paso

H.R. No. 60

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Cacique Jose Sierra Sr. on August 16,
2 2025, concluded a remarkable life of service to the Tigua people of
3 the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe in El Paso; and

4 WHEREAS, Jose Sierra was born into the YDSP in 1943; over the
5 years, he went on to hold the leadership positions of governor,
6 alguacil, or sheriff, tribal judge, and mayordomo; in 2017, he
7 became cacique, or chief, a lifelong term on the tribal council that
8 represents the highest spiritual authority in guiding the pueblo's
9 ceremonies and traditions; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to the well-being of the Tigua
11 people, Cacique Sierra played a key role in the establishment of
12 such community assets as the YDSP Cultural Center, a spice plant, a
13 health care clinic, an early learning center, and new housing; he
14 was also instrumental in securing federal and state recognition of
15 the pueblo, and his efforts contributed to the 2022 U.S. Supreme
16 Court ruling that affirmed the tribe's gaming rights; in addition,
17 he led a delegation to the Netherlands to help secure the
18 repatriation of several sacred artifacts that had been held there
19 since 1882; and

20 WHEREAS, Outside of his service to the pueblo, Mr. Sierra
21 worked for more than three decades as a location scout in the film
22 office of the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau, which led to
23 the area's historic neighborhoods, desert landscapes, and
24 landmarks being showcased in cinema; during this time, he met with

1 such celebrities and dignitaries as Johnny Depp, Chuck Norris, and
2 Queen Elizabeth II; and

3 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Sierra benefited from the
4 love and support of his wife of 61 years, Irma; he was the proud
5 father of their 5 children, and with the passing years, he had the
6 pleasure of seeing his family grow to include 22 grandchildren and
7 29 great-grandchildren; known for his love of traditional cooking,
8 his signature recipes included red chili and Indian bread; and

9 WHEREAS, Admired for his wisdom, generosity, and strength,
10 Jose Sierra leaves behind a legacy of good works that will long
11 resonate in the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
13 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
14 Cacique Jose Sierra Sr. and extend sincere condolences to all who
15 mourn his passing; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jose
19 Sierra.