

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 94

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever carry with them the
2 memory of Jose Maria Longoria Sr., a prominent Starr County
3 educator and public servant, who passed away on May 2, 1980, at the
4 age of 73; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on June 20, 1906, and raised in La Grulla, Jose
6 Longoria was the son of Tristan and Guadalupe C. Longoria, who
7 instilled in him the importance of education from an early age; he
8 went on to be named the salutatorian at San Diego High School in
9 1925, and he subsequently graduated with honors from Texas A&I
10 University in 1933; he and both of his siblings, Guadalupe and
11 Roberto, attended college at a time when few minorities were
12 enrolled; and

13 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Longoria enlisted in the
14 U.S. armed forces and became an army instructor in 1944; he had
15 previously taught Spanish at Texas A&I University, and upon
16 returning from military service, he resumed his career as an
17 educator in the San Isidro and Brownsville school districts; after
18 working as an editor for the *Starr County Democrat* for two years, he
19 took over as owner and manager of Valley Distributing Company,
20 operating the business from 1938 to 1974; along the way, he obtained
21 his law degree from La Salle Extension University; and

22 WHEREAS, A fiscal conservative, Mr. Longoria served as a
23 county commissioner from 1949 to 1972; he also filled in as an
24 interim county judge and volunteered as a trustee for the La Grulla

1 and Rio Grande City school districts; although the 1950s were an
2 economically challenging decade for Starr County, Mr. Longoria's
3 efforts helped to fund two new elementary schools; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Longoria was a charter member of LULAC as well
5 as a member of the International Platform Association and the
6 National Historical Society; he was the recipient of the Alpha Chi
7 Award Plaque, and he was posthumously honored with a Presidential
8 Memorial Certificate for his military service; and

9 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Longoria was blessed with
10 the love and support of his wife, Maria Saenz, and their six
11 children, Jose, Thelma, Isaac, Arturo, Romeo, and Roberto; in his
12 leisure hours, he found enjoyment in his favorite pastime, playing
13 the violin; and

14 WHEREAS, The life of Jose Longoria was an inspiring example
15 of the good that one person can accomplish, and he will forever hold
16 a special place in the hearts of those he left behind; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and legacy of Jose Maria
20 Longoria Sr. and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and,
21 be it further

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