

By: Zwiener

H.R. No. 524

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of San Marcos lost an admired  
2 restaurateur and civic leader with the passing of Rafael  
3 Gonzales Jr. on January 25, 2025, at the age of 90; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Rafael Gonzales Sr. and Virginia Lopez  
5 Gonzales, Ralph Gonzales was born in Martindale on October 30,  
6 1934; he dropped out of school in the seventh grade to help support  
7 his family; on February 17, 1956, he married the former Mary  
8 Juarez; they became the parents of four children, Jerry, Peggy,  
9 Debbie, and Virginia Jeannie, and the family later grew to include  
10 seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; after the couple  
11 found success selling sausage links out of their home, Mr. Gonzales  
12 opened a small restaurant, Pic-A-Taco, that later grew into a  
13 two-story establishment; a longtime San Marcos favorite, the  
14 business ultimately developed a national reputation, and  
15 Mr. Gonzales was invited to cook for President Jimmy Carter in the  
16 nation's capital in 1980; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Gonzales was renowned for his compassion;  
18 during local floods in the 1970s, he provided free food to victims  
19 and recovery workers, and following a major earthquake in  
20 Guatemala, he organized volunteers to deliver five truckloads of  
21 food and supplies to the country; he also came to the rescue of the  
22 Southside Community Center when it lost key funding; from 1980 to  
23 1990, he served as a Hays County commissioner, and over the years,  
24 he gave generously of his time, talent, and resources to many

1 organizations, among them the Senior Citizens' Center, the Scheib  
2 Opportunity Center, the Hays County Women's Center, and the  
3 American GI Forum; in 1996, he founded a nonprofit, Nosotros la  
4 Gente, which continues to provide footwear to children in need;  
5 Mr. Gonzales was the recipient of numerous accolades, including the  
6 1976 Citizen of the Year award from the *Hays County Citizen*; and

7 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family and his community, Ralph  
8 Gonzales made a meaningful difference in the lives of his loved ones  
9 and fellow citizens alike, and his contributions will be remembered  
10 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Rafael Gonzales Jr.  
13 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family and to his  
14 many friends; and, be it further

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