

RESOLUTION
IN HONOR OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE AARON PEÑA, JR.

WHEREAS, Aaron Peña, Jr. has fulfilled five terms of public service to Hidalgo County and the State of Texas, having served as State Representative for House District 40 for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Peña was raised in Edinburg and graduated from Edinburg High School in 1977, he attended Pan American University before heading to Austin where he received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Texas in May of 1984. Like his father before him, Peña studied to be a lawyer, receiving his Juris Doctor in May 1987 from Texas Southern University School of Law in Houston. Peña immediately returned to Edinburg to raise his family and to practice law; and

WHEREAS, his passion for law and public service have enabled him to contribute economic growth and prosperity to his hometown community of Edinburg, the Rio Grande Valley, and pass legislation that has impacted Texans across the state; and

WHEREAS, Peña's initial run for public office in 2002 was sparked by the loss of his son John Austin Peña, his goal as a legislator was to open a state operated drug treatment center in South Texas to serve the needs of the community. In 2007, Representative Peña secured funding to bring such a facility to Edinburg and on October 4, 2011, Peña, joined by state, local, and elected officials gave the Key Note Address at the Grand Opening celebration of the John Austin Peña Primary Care and Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, the first of its kind in South Texas; and

WHEREAS, as a legislator, Peña has served as a strong advocate for education, examples of his commitment include legislation that aimed for increases in public school teacher pay. He has also worked to assist in the growth of the University of Texas-Pan American. Peña sponsored legislation to authorize construction of a \$25 Million dollar Student Wellness and Recreation Center, a \$40 Million dollar Fine Arts Academic and Performance Complex, \$5 Million additional dollars for the Regional Academic Health Center at UT - Pan American, as well as continued growth in the university's operating budget, all of which have added a great benefit to the university, Edinburg community, and students; and

WHEREAS, during his terms in office, Peña achieved committee chairman status in three sessions, to the House Committee for Criminal Jurisprudence, House Select Committee on Emergency Preparedness, and House Committee on Technology. He has also been assigned to more than 20 committees during his five terms in office; and

WHEREAS, Peña has elected to retire after his ten year service, he looks forward to spending time with his wife Monica Peña and their four children: Adrienne Peña-Garza, Aron Peña, Michael Anthony Peña, Alyssa Peña and his grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby recognizes and honors State Representative Aaron Peña, Jr. for his outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to the community and citizens of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, the Rio Grande Valley, and the State of Texas.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2012.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

JOEL QUINTANILLA
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

HECTOR "TITO" PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk