

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 411

Honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of Texas civil rights pioneer Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2007

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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# RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of  
Texas civil rights pioneer Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Whereas Hector P. Garcia was born on January 17, 1914,  
in Llera, a small town in south central Tamaulipas, Mex-  
ico;

Whereas Hector P. Garcia was brought to Mercedes, Texas,  
as a small child when his parents fled the Mexican Revo-  
lution in 1917;

Whereas Dr. Hector P. Garcia graduated from the University  
of Texas Medical School in 1940, and later joined the  
United States Army;

Whereas Dr. Hector P. Garcia served as an infantryman, a  
combat engineer, and a medical doctor during World War

II, and earned the Bronze Star medal with six battle stars for his distinguished service;

Whereas Dr. Hector P. Garcia founded the American GI Forum in 1948 to fight for equal treatment of Mexican-American veterans, including proper medical treatment and educational benefits;

Whereas, in 1949, Dr. Hector P. Garcia secured a burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery for Pvt. Felix Longoria after a Texas funeral home refused to hold a wake for Pvt. Longoria, a U.S. soldier killed during World War II, for the sole reason that he was Hispanic;

Whereas President Lyndon Johnson made Dr. Hector P. Garcia the first Mexican-American to serve as an ambassador to the United Nations;

Whereas Dr. Hector P. Garcia was the first Hispanic to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights;

Whereas, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan bestowed upon Dr. Hector P. Garcia the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Dr. Hector P. Garcia devoted his life to fighting for civil rights and educational access for Mexican-Americans; and

Whereas this Nation has benefited from Dr. Hector P. Garcia's legacy of generosity and commitment to equality:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a selfless physician, decorated World War

- 1 II veteran, dedicated family man, and civil rights hero,
- 2 and joins in the celebration of his birthday, January 17.

