

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2002

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BEN MIRANDA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Former Representative Benjamin (Ben) R. Miranda passed away on November
2 15, 2013 at the age of sixty-four.

3 Born in Texas into a large migrant farm family, Ben Miranda spent his
4 formative years traveling across the country, harvesting crops, attending
5 single-room schools and living in camps with up to five thousand immigrant
6 farm workers. By the time Ben Miranda turned ten years of age, he had
7 attended more than fifteen different elementary schools.

8 Eventually, Ben Miranda's family decided to settle in Arizona, first in
9 Gila Bend and then in Phoenix, where they humbly lived in the Marcos de Niza
10 Housing Project. After graduating from Phoenix Union High School,
11 Ben Miranda admirably served in the Vietnam War. His heroism in battle
12 prompted the late Senator Barry Goldwater to award him with a Bronze Star,
13 one of the country's top military decorations for bravery, heroism and
14 meritorious service. Having long dreamed of one day obtaining a college
15 education, Ben Miranda decided to use his GI Bill to pay for his studies at
16 Phoenix College and Arizona State University. After receiving his bachelor's
17 degree, he went on to earn a juris doctorate from the Sandra Day O'Connor
18 College of Law at Arizona State University.

19 Ben Miranda quickly proved to be a talented and trusted personal injury
20 attorney, making it his goal to ensure that his clients were treated with the
21 utmost dignity and respect. Throughout the course of his career he had many
22 high profile clients, including activist Cesar Chavez and Ernesto Miranda
23 from the landmark case *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966).

24 With his election to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2002,
25 Ben Miranda embarked on a remarkable record of public service and he ably
26 served his constituents in this capacity until 2010, at which time his wife,
27 Catherine, was elected to the same seat. Ben entered office at the same time
28 as his brother, Richard, and together they were the first brothers to serve
29 as state-level office holders. Altogether, the Mirandas have served a total
30 of twenty-five years in the Legislature. During his tenure as a legislator,
31 Ben was selected to be the chairman of the Arizona Latino Caucus several
32 times. In 2007, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators presented
33 Ben Miranda with the John S. Martinez Leadership award, an honor given
34 annually to a Hispanic legislator who exhibits outstanding achievements,
35 passion and dedication in his or her political career.

36 Despite the demands of his political and professional endeavors, Ben
37 Miranda gave freely of his time, energy and expertise to numerous civic and
38 community organizations. He served on the governing boards of the Maricopa
39 County Community College District, the Roosevelt Elementary School District
40 and the Phoenix Union High School District. He also served on the boards of
41 the Arizona Trial Lawyers Association, the American Red Cross and Valle de
42 Sol. Dedicated to helping immigrant workers and low-income individuals get
43 fair and equal treatment under the law, Ben Miranda served as a United Farm
44 Workers Attorney, hosted a weekly television program on legal issues and
45 donated many hours of free legal advice to the community. He established

1 Proyecto Manzanana, an organization with the mission of promoting citizenship
2 for its participants, advocating for human and legal rights and encouraging
3 participation in education and civil matters. Dedicated to improving
4 education, he donated more than a million dollars to schools, community
5 organizations and charities. Additionally, both he and his wife,
6 Representative Catherine Miranda, cofounded and developed the Manzanana
7 Foundation, an organization that assists students in preparing for college.
8 In 1994, his legacy of public service was recognized when he received the
9 City of Phoenix's first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living the Dream"
10 award.

11 In all of Ben Miranda's endeavors, he distinguished himself as a loyal,
12 astute and conscientious public servant. He was dedicated to the highest
13 ideals of American jurisprudence, and his integrity and fairness earned him
14 the respect and admiration of all who knew him. His record of humble service
15 to his nation, state and community is an example for all to follow.

16 Dedicated to his family, Ben Miranda is survived by his wife,
17 Representative Catherine Miranda, his two daughters and his five
18 grandchildren.

19 Therefore

20 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
21 Senate concurring:

22 That the Members of the Legislature sincerely regret the passing of
23 former Representative Ben Miranda and extend their deepest sympathies to his
24 family and friends.