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## *House of Representatives*

### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MARSHALL

#### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 1, 2004*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and constituent, a beloved citizen of Aransas Pass, Texas, an established entrepreneur, and a compassionate neighbor—Mr. Charles Marshall. He has served his town, its needy and especially, its children, for nearly half of a century.

I can think of no one more deserving of recognition for empowering a community with the best educational opportunities that can be bestowed upon its youngest citizens. It is the personal values he has held throughout his years of public service which enhance the contributions and unshakeable faith he has in the people of Aransas Pass.

Charlie Marshall was born July 7, 1923 in Skidmore, Texas. He attended public school in Raymondville and later graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He served his country in the Navy during World War II, serving for 3 years on a back-up troop transport in an operating room. After returning from the war, he threw himself into civilian life and enrolled in Landig Mortuary College in Houston, Texas—eventually rising to valedictorian and class president.

He moved to Aransas Pass in 1949 and went to work for Cage Funeral Home. In 1953, it became Cage-Marshall Funeral Homes. Thirty-five years later, in 1998, the Charlie Marshall Funeral Home and Crematory of Aransas Pass was officially dedicated. Charlie's professional commitment was recognized by the State of Texas. He was appointed to the Texas State Board of Morticians by Governors Price Daniels, John Connally, Preston Smith and Dolph Briscoe.

Charlie knew Aransas Pass was a great place to live and that the area would flourish if it had a solid educational hub. So in May 1959, he ran and was elected to the school board. This position enabled him to use his ability to inspire, at-

tract and engage students and parents to work together to support academic excellence, and enhance pride in their community. Mr. Marshall continues today to visit the school campuses and talk to the students. He attends the Panther Sports events and supports many school activities that provide young people a chance to represent their school and community.

In addition to his exemplary service to his profession and the local educational community, Charlie has also served in civic, charitable and social organizations which propel the community and its citizens to prosperity.

These organizations include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he received the Good Citizenship Award, and the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce, where he has served for many years as an officer. He is credited as the founder and early organizer of the Shrimporee Festival, which continues to benefit San Patricio County. He was a distinguished director of the Overbid Property Trust, whose proceeds built the Aransas Pass Public Library. He was awarded the Aransas Pass Citizen of the Year Award 1972, and the coveted Murl Smith Award in 1981. Mr. Marshall was one of the founders of the Aransas Pass Associated Charities, which later grew into the Christian Service Center, serving thousands of needy families and children.

The citizens of Aransas Pass honored Mr. Marshall by naming an elementary school in recognition of his many community and educational contributions. It is my pleasure to pay homage to Charlie Marshall on the House Floor for his tireless efforts and 45 years of stellar leadership in education. I must also commend Charlie's late wife Gayle, his daughter, Marty, and son, Bill, who not only supported his service to Aransas Pass, but have shared his compassion and commitment.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Charles Marshall for his exceptional career and contributions to the great State of Texas and our Nation.