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CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
119<sup>th</sup> Congress

April 29, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we urge you to preserve Fort Cavazos as the name of the military installation in Killeen, Texas. When Congress tasked the bipartisan Renaming Commission with replacing Confederate names across military bases, they thoughtfully selected General Robert E. Cavazos to replace Fort Hood's designation. Throughout his distinguished 33-year military career, General Cavazos demonstrated exceptional bravery and leadership that epitomizes the values our armed forces always seek to uphold. His achievements and service to our country have earned him this lasting recognition, which must be upheld.

General Robert E. Cavazos, a Texas native, built a military career defined by extraordinary leadership and battlefield heroism. Serving in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, he risked his life on numerous occasions to protect his soldiers and accomplish missions on the battlefield. In Korea, he earned his first Distinguished Service Cross for braving enemy fire to rescue wounded men. Years later in Vietnam, he earned a second Distinguished Service Cross for directing a counteroffensive while under heavy enemy fire from the Viet Cong. He earned a reputation for having courage, engaging in strategic thinking, and being devoted to his troops. These characteristics set him apart to distinguish him as one of the Army's finest officers and recently earned him the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Rising through the ranks, Cavazos became the first Hispanic four-star general in U.S. history and ultimately commanded U.S. Army Forces

Command (FORSCOM). As FORSCOM's leader, he played a pivotal role in modernizing troop training, refining combat strategies, and ensuring that soldiers were prepared for future conflicts.

After retiring in 1984, he continued to serve in public leadership roles, including on the Board of Regents for Texas Tech University. His legacy is one of exceptional bravery, visionary leadership, and a lifelong commitment to the country he served.

Keeping the military installation in Killeen, Texas as Fort Cavazos would be an ongoing tribute to a leader who dedicated his life to our nation. Maintaining his name ensures that our military installations honor those who served with distinction and upheld this country's highest values. We urge you to uphold the Renaming Commission's decision and ensure that Fort Cavazos continues to bear the name of this distinguished American hero.

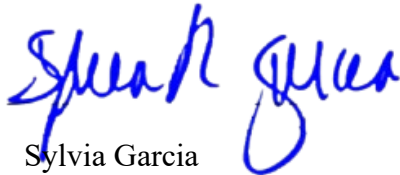
Respectfully,



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress  
Deputy Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Sylvia Garcia  
Member of Congress  
Whip  
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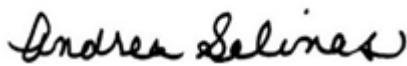
Robert Menendez  
Member of Congress  
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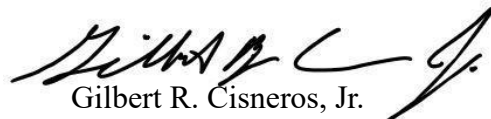
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