

House Engrossed

Alfredo Gutierrez death resolution

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2065**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ALFREDO GUTIERREZ.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           The Honorable Alfredo Gutierrez, former Senate Majority and Minority  
2 Leader, passed away on July 29, 2025, at the age of 79.

3           Alfredo Gutierrez was born on September 1, 1945, in the copper  
4 mining town of Miami, Arizona. Alfredo's father was a United States  
5 citizen and miner but was deported to Mexico during the Great Depression.  
6 As a result, Alfredo's family lived in fear of deportation during  
7 Operation Wetback in the 1950s. These experiences, in addition to  
8 Alfredo's upbringing during a time colored by conflict and social change,  
9 led him to a life of advocacy and activism for social justice and  
10 underserved communities.

11           At the age of 17, Alfredo joined the Vietnam War. He returned home  
12 at the age of 22 to work in the mines as his father had years before.  
13 Later, using the G.I. Bill, he enrolled at Arizona State University where  
14 he cofounded the Mexican American Student Organization, which later became  
15 the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MECHA). Alfredo led a  
16 student protest against the university, demanding better wages and working  
17 conditions for the campus laundry workers. The protest led to the  
18 appointment of a commission to review the allegations but was also an  
19 impetus in him being expelled from the university.

20           After his forced departure from ASU, Alfredo was one of the first  
21 individuals to earn the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship, an 18-month  
22 training program for fellows to pursue a career in politics, public  
23 service and social justice. Under the fellowship, Alfredo helped start  
24 Chicano Por La Causa, one of the largest Latino nonprofit groups in the  
25 United States, and Valle Del Sol, which provides comprehensive primary  
26 care, behavioral care and counseling for underserved communities.

27           In 1972, at the age of 27, Alfredo was elected to the Arizona State  
28 Senate. Only two years after his election, Alfredo was elected to serve  
29 as Senate Majority Leader due to his keen ability to build bipartisan  
30 coalitions. He served 14 years in the Arizona State Senate where his  
31 policy prowess and political acumen contributed to a formidable  
32 legislative legacy. Under his leadership, the Arizona Department of  
33 Transportation was established and the state joined the Medicaid program,  
34 known as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). He  
35 also was instrumental in the expansion of the Maricopa Community College  
36 District with the building of the South Mountain Community College campus.

37           After departing the legislature, Alfredo opened a successful  
38 government relations and consulting firm, Jamieson and Gutierrez. Alfredo  
39 sold the firm in 2000 after many successful years in private practice.

40           Alfredo was dedicated to serving his community and championed many  
41 important causes. He served on the boards of the Phoenix Police  
42 Foundation, Greater Phoenix Leadership, the Kino Institute, the Greater  
43 Black Chamber of Commerce and the Morrison Institute for Public Policy.  
44 He also served as president of the Maricopa College Governing Board.

1 A man of many talents and interests, Alfredo was a Spanish  
2 talk-radio host, public speaker, educator, author and founder of an online  
3 current events publication called *la Frontera Times*. In 2013, he wrote *To*  
4 *Sin Against Hope: How America Has Failed Its Immigrants*, which addressed  
5 U.S. border politics.

6 Alfredo received an honorary doctoral degree from Arizona State  
7 University at the Hispanic Convocation, which he cofounded in 1984. In  
8 2024, he graduated from ASU with a bachelor's degree at the age of 78,  
9 more than 50 years after he was forced to leave the university.

10 Alfredo will be remembered for his many accomplishments in the  
11 Legislature and as a champion for civil rights, education and immigrants'  
12 rights. He was a lifelong advocate for the working class and the  
13 marginalized, and his influence helped shape Arizona's policies, public  
14 debate and the next generation of Latino leaders.

15 A loving husband, father, grandfather and tio, Alfredo Gutierrez is  
16 survived by his life partner and wife, Sharon, his children, Sam Gutierrez  
17 (Brenda), Luis Gutierrez (Anna June) and Ben Goldstein (Nadia), his bonus  
18 children, Marcus Bellamy and Marisol Conchola, his granddaughters, Dia,  
19 Carmen, Raven and Samantha, and his many nieces, nephews and extended  
20 family. Alfredo will be greatly missed by many friends and the community  
21 he loved and served.

22 Therefore

23 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
24 the Senate concurring:

25 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the  
26 passing of the Honorable Alfredo Gutierrez and extend their deepest  
27 condolences to his surviving family members.