

Elected to the Texas Legislature at 28 years old as the first Hispanic to represent rural Far West Texas, Pete Gallego served for 22 years in the Texas House of Representatives. In his first term, he became the first and only freshman ever elected to lead the Democratic Caucus - at a time when Democrats had a majority. A person of vision and talent, Gallego was part of the leadership teams of several speakers and chaired numerous committees.

During his legislative tenure, Mr. Gallego served on the Sunset Commission and was a member of the joint House-Senate Conference Committee on Appropriations during five consecutive sessions. He also served a record ten years as chairman of the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus. He was named to *Texas Monthly's* Ten Best Legislators list and was a finalist for Texan of the Year nominated by the *Dallas Morning News*.

Gallego was known for reaching across the aisle in across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion. In 2012, he decided to put those skills to work in a different arena and sought election to the United States Congress. Gallego was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 23rd District of Texas - the state's largest and only battleground district. He served in Congress from 2013-2014.

The son of a World War II veteran and state employee, Pete was born in the small West Texas town of Alpine. He attended local public schools and worked in his family's restaurant where he learned the value of a hard day's work. Pete graduated from his hometown college, Sul Ross State University, in two years while balancing three jobs and a full course load. After graduating, Pete went on to get a degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He became an assistant attorney general before returning home to serve as a local felony prosecutor before his election to the Texas Legislature in 1990.

During his groundbreaking career in Austin, Pete helped craft billions of dollars of state investment in public schools and colleges and universities. He worked to protect water rights, secure the border, support Texas veterans and oversee Texas's criminal justice system. And, he worked diligently to make state government more efficient

and effective.

Gallego was one of very few rural legislators in Congress. While there, Gallego served on both the House Armed Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee. He was an ardent champion for veterans - especially those living in rural areas. Gallego authored numerous amendments which helped rural areas get better and faster care from the Veterans Administration and also worked to reach agreement on critical legislation leading to needed VA reform.

Now an attorney in private practice, Gallego and his wife of 25 years, María Elena - another UT Law graduate - are raising their ten-year old son, Nicolás.