

By: Ordaz

H.R. No. 102

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, L & J Cafe has served the El Paso community for a  
2 remarkable 96 years; and

3           WHEREAS, Established by Antonio and Juanita Flores, this  
4 iconic Mexican restaurant first opened as Tony's Place on the  
5 outskirts of El Paso in 1927; it soon became a popular local  
6 watering hole, especially among those stationed at Fort Bliss, who  
7 sought out Mrs. Flores's delicious Mexican food as well as the  
8 restaurant's home brew and slot machines; and

9           WHEREAS, The couple's daughter and son-in-law, Lilia and John  
10 Duran, assumed responsibility for the restaurant in 1968, renaming  
11 it L & J Cafe after the initials of their first names and the names  
12 of their children; after John Duran passed away in 1987, his son and  
13 daughter-in-law, Leo and Frances Duran, took over the café, with  
14 Lilia Duran continuing to serve as an advisor until her death in  
15 1999; a fourth generation of the family is represented by the  
16 current general manager, Vanessa Duran; and

17           WHEREAS, The restaurant has expanded over the years, with its  
18 kitchen tripling in size, and it now boasts a gift shop, which began  
19 as a way to sell the restaurant's Tombstone Salsa; a popular  
20 destination for local residents, visitors, and celebrities alike,  
21 L & J Cafe has received numerous awards, including winning the USA  
22 Today Best Tex-Mex in Texas contest in 2018, and Leo Duran was  
23 inducted into the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor; and

24           WHEREAS, L & J Cafe has also set an inspiring example of civic

1 engagement by working with other restaurateurs to feed refugees  
2 from Central America seeking asylum in El Paso and Las Cruces in  
3 2018; and

4 WHEREAS, L & J Cafe has won the loyalty of generations of area  
5 residents while contributing to the prosperity of the local  
6 economy, and over the course of nearly a century, it has attained  
7 the status of a treasured community institution; now, therefore, be  
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
10 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor L & J Cafe and extend  
11 to all those associated with the restaurant sincere best wishes for  
12 continued success; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for L & J Cafe as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
15 House of Representatives.