

By: Wise

H.R. No. 144

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 58th anniversary of Lupita Cantu's Mer-Tex Café
2 offers an ideal opportunity to recognize the oldest eatery in
3 Mercedes and to honor the remarkable 91-year-old restaurateur who
4 runs it; and

5 WHEREAS, In her youth, Mrs. Cantu married Jose N. Cantu, a
6 cook in a small Mercedes restaurant; while he served in World War II
7 with the U.S. Navy, she worked at odd jobs to support herself,
8 saving the wartime paychecks Mr. Cantu sent her; and

9 WHEREAS, After his service ended, he returned home to find
10 his wife had amassed a small fortune; when Mr. Cantu's former boss
11 offered to sell the restaurant to the couple in 1945, the Cantus
12 bought it, and they ran the successful dining establishment while
13 raising seven children; in 1975, the Cantus had a taste of fame when
14 their café was featured in the Mexican movie, *Me Caiste de Cielo*,
15 starring Lola Beltrán; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Cantu continued to run the restaurant after her
17 husband passed away in 1979; the hub of the Mercedes community,
18 Mer-Tex has hosted dances for the town's young people and has been a
19 popular hangout for years; Mrs. Cantu has been a mother figure to
20 many local children, giving them jobs and free food when they were
21 in need; and

22 WHEREAS, With hard work, dedication, and kindness, Mrs. Cantu
23 has made the Mer-Tex Café a fixture in the community and earned a
24 special place in the hearts of all who know her; now, therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
3 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Lupita Cantu and her
4 Mer-Tex Café and extend to her best wishes for continued success and
5 happiness; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Mrs. Cantu as an expression of high regard by the Texas
8 House of Representatives.