

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sandra Cisneros, one of the most popular and
2 critically acclaimed Latino authors in the United States, helped
3 the San Antonio Public Library celebrate its 100th anniversary with
4 a reading from her work at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre on
5 September 4, 2003; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Chicago in 1954, Ms. Cisneros was the only
7 daughter among seven children in her family; to cope with the
8 frequent moves, bleak neighborhoods, and loneliness that she
9 experienced as a young girl, she became an avid reader and began to
10 write poems and stories; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Cisneros earned a bachelor's degree in English
12 from Loyola University of Chicago in 1976 and an M.F.A. from the
13 University of Iowa Writers' Workshop two years later; while
14 studying in Iowa she found her voice as a Chicana author, dealing
15 with such issues as self-identity, power, love, and divided
16 cultural loyalties; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to various essays, Ms. Cisneros has
18 published a bilingual children's book titled *Hairs/Pelitos* and
19 three collections of poetry, *Bad Boys*, *Loose Woman*, and *My Wicked*
20 *Wicked Ways*; and

21 WHEREAS, Her first novel, *The House on Mango Street*, won the
22 Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award in 1985 and has
23 now sold more than two million copies; in 1991 a collection of her
24 short stories, *Woman Hollering Creek*, became the first work written

1 about Chicanas by a Chicana to be released by a major publishing
2 house; *Woman Hollering Creek* received a number of awards and was
3 chosen as a noteworthy book of the year by both the *American Library*
4 *Journal* and the *New York Times*; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2002 Ms. Cisneros published *Caramelo*, a sprawling
6 saga that captures the history and popular culture of Mexico and the
7 U.S. and the way in which those forces shaped three generations of
8 the Reyes family--and thousands of other immigrant families--as
9 they moved back and forth between the two countries in order to make
10 a better life; hailed in the *New York Times* as "one of those novels
11 that blithely leap across the border between literary and popular
12 fiction," *Caramelo* became one of 20 books from around the world to
13 be listed for the 2003 Orange Prize for Fiction; and

14 WHEREAS, Sandra Cisneros has held a Dobie Paisano Fellowship
15 and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts; in
16 1995 she garnered a MacArthur Fellowship, often referred to as the
17 "genius award" and one of the most prestigious prizes conferred in
18 the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, A resident of San Antonio for more than a decade, she
20 has been generous with the time she has given to that community
21 through various endeavors; recently Ms. Cisneros worked with the
22 San Antonio Public Library Foundation to establish the Born to Read
23 initiative, a centennial project that furnishes every baby born in
24 Bexar County with a library card, bilingual books, and a CD of
25 bilingual lullabies; and

26 WHEREAS, Keen to act as a bridge between Latino and
27 mainstream Anglo culture, Sandra Cisneros is also making her mark

1 abroad; imposing the most exacting of standards on her writing, she
2 has reaped international respect, enormous commercial popularity,
3 and a remarkably diverse readership, and it is no small matter of
4 pride to be able to claim her as a citizen of the Lone Star State;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
7 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Sandra Cisneros for
8 her immeasurable contributions to American culture and extend to
9 her sincere best wishes as she continues to enrich both our
10 literature and our lives; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Ms. Cisneros as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.

Castro

H.R. No. 81

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 81 was adopted by the House on
September 22, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House