

By: Castro

H.R. No. 81

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.