

By: Flores

H.R. No. 1591

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nydia Alonzo has demonstrated outstanding
2 inventiveness and initiative in her instruction of second graders
3 at Leo Marcell Elementary School in Mission, Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, In the course of teaching her students about their
5 home state, she has led them in cooking chili, the state dish, for
6 an open house during Texas Public School Week, and growing
7 jalapeños, the state pepper, in their classroom; she has also
8 acquainted them with the legend of the bluebonnet, the state
9 flower, and with the fact that the Valley's Texas Red Grapefruit is
10 the state fruit; and

11 WHEREAS, While pondering the variety of official state
12 symbols, it occurred to her students that Texas did not have an
13 official state snack; they decided this position of honor
14 rightfully belonged to the tortilla chip, a standard snack in Texas
15 but uncommon fare in other states, as some students had discovered
16 first-hand on their travels; and

17 WHEREAS, Realizing what a wonderful opportunity her
18 students' interest presented, Mrs. Alonzo encouraged them to take
19 the matter of the tortilla chip to their state representative; on
20 April 16, 2002, the class e-mailed State Representative Kino Flores
21 requesting that he propose adding the tortilla chip to the list of
22 official state symbols; from the time of that e-mail, Mrs. Alonzo
23 stayed in close communication with the representative and his staff
24 to monitor progress on her students' petition; and

1 WHEREAS, The idea of recognizing the tortilla chip evolved
2 further, and when the 78th Texas Legislature convened in 2003, HCR
3 16 was introduced to make tortilla chips and salsa the official
4 state snack; at the appropriate time, Mrs. Alonzo and her class
5 traveled to the Capitol to testify in its favor; the measure
6 subsequently passed both houses with no opposition; and

7 WHEREAS, The young students who had the good fortune to find
8 themselves in Mrs. Alonzo's classroom gained invaluable experience
9 in the workings of representative government, and Texans will soon
10 be able to boast of a new state symbol, thanks to the inspiration of
11 these youngsters and the creative and dedicated efforts of their
12 exceptional teacher; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor Nydia Alonzo for her contributions to
15 designating tortilla chips and salsa as the official state snack of
16 Texas and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success in
17 all her endeavors; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mrs. Alonzo as an expression of high esteem by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.