

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 297

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, Originally named the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, the organization was established in 1973 to represent the needs of minorities in the local business community; the group was officially chartered on August 3, 1974, and founders Dick Salinas, Pete Zepeda, Ron Fernandez, and Manuel Jara served as the first officers; in 1985 the organization changed its name to the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Over its three decades of existence, the chamber has ably served the local community, and its membership has steadily increased; and

**WHEREAS**, The chamber serves its members through business and professional seminars and workshops, networking opportunities, and business procurement assistance through economic development programs; in recent years, the chamber has implemented a Hispanic leadership development course and offered a course for start-up businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 1991 the chamber has served the community by providing over half a million dollars in scholarship funds; it awards an annual scholarship for eighth-grade Hispanic students upon their graduation and has entered into a partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund to offer additional scholarships to deserving students; and

**WHEREAS**, The chamber provides an excellent introduction into local and international Hispanic markets while continuing to serve the needs of local Hispanic business leaders in a complex and competitive environment; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for its outstanding service to minority businesses and extend best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the chamber as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Nelson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 5, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate