

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 159

In Memory
of
Rosita Fernandez

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of San Antonio in mourning the loss of Rosita Fernandez, who died May 2, 2006, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Known to her legions of fans as "Rosita," and then as "San Antonio's First Lady of Song," after being given the title by Lady Bird Johnson, Rosita Fernandez sang before royalty, heads of state, and Pope John Paul II; a woman of much modesty, however, she sang for the simplest of reasons--she wanted to share her gift of voice with the world; and

WHEREAS, Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Rosita took San Antonio as her adopted hometown and became one of its most beloved icons; for nearly 30 years, she was the featured attraction at the Arneson River Theater's Fiesta Noche del Rio, a fund-raiser for local children's charities; and

WHEREAS, Rosita continued to appear at charity events well after her official retirement, particularly the Teleton Navideño; the San Antonio city council honored her by naming a stone bridge crossing the San Antonio River "Rosita's Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, Rosita sang for Pope John Paul II on his 1987 visit to San Antonio, and she sang for Prince Charles when he visited Texas, a performance she called her favorite; she performed at the LBJ Ranch on several occasions and sang at President Jimmy Carter's inaugural parade; and

WHEREAS, Rosita made hundreds of recordings on the RCA, Decca, and Brunswick labels and appeared in films and on television as well; she was the first performer to appear live on San Antonio's WOAI television station; and

WHEREAS, Among the many awards Rosita garnered were the Arts and Letters Award from the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library and the Albert Peña, Jr., Lifetime Award from the Mexican American Unity Council; she was named Woman of the Year in 1983 and was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and the Tejano Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, A woman of grace, strength, and compassion, Rosita gave unselfishly to others, and she leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by her family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Rosita Fernandez: her husband, Charlie Reeves; her son, Raul J. Almaguer; her daughter and son-in-law, Diana Rosa and Rafael Orellana; her sisters, Olga Garza, Celia Ochoa, Ana Maria Herrera, and Marianela Ojeda; and her seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Rosita Fernandez.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2006, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate