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R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ten years ago this day, a Texas star was forever
2 dimmed with the tragic passing of the internationally acclaimed
3 queen of Tejano music, Selena Quintanilla Perez, on March 31, 1995,
4 at the age of 23, and her death both stunned and saddened the
5 legions of fans around the world whose lives had been touched by her
6 music; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in Lake Jackson, Texas, on April 16, 1971, this
8 extremely gifted young woman developed her love for music at an
9 early age, having begun singing at the age of six and performing
10 with Los Dinos, the Quintanilla family band, by the age of nine,
11 following her family's move to Corpus Christi; and

12 WHEREAS, Selena recorded her first album while still in her
13 early teens and, as her popularity grew, her band became known as
14 Selena y los Dinos; blessed with the guidance of her father, Abraham
15 Quintanilla, who served as her manager and booking agent, she
16 successfully made the transition from teen star to adult artist and
17 garnered her first serious recognition in 1987 when she was named
18 Female Vocalist of the Year and Performer of the Year at the Tejano
19 Music Awards in San Antonio; and

20 WHEREAS, With artistry and hard work she continued to build
21 on her success by setting a dizzying pace for herself during which
22 she would captivate audiences by dancing and singing in her
23 trademark costumes; far from limiting herself to concert
24 performances and recording albums alone, this dynamic entertainer

1 was featured on one of Latin America's most popular shows, "Siempre
2 en Domingo," had appeared on the renowned soap opera, "Dos Mujeres,
3 Un Camino," played a singer in the film, "Don Juan DeMarco," and had
4 begun a new chapter in her multifaceted career with the
5 establishment of a boutique and hair salon in Corpus Christi and San
6 Antonio; and

7 WHEREAS, Selena became an internationally recognized star
8 who was especially revered in Mexico, throughout Latin America, and
9 in her home state of Texas, and, while developing her own phenomenal
10 career, she also was instrumental in transforming the Tejano music
11 industry into one of the fastest growing markets of music in the
12 world; and

13 WHEREAS, Her achievements as an entertainer gave her a means
14 by which to reach a broader audience, and she put her accessibility
15 to her adoring fans to good use, frequently speaking directly to her
16 female fans in the audience between songs on women's issues and
17 empowering them through her lyrics; Selena also taped a public
18 service announcement in behalf of battered women for the Houston
19 Area Women's Center and had expressed interest in personally
20 visiting the shelter and performing in a fund-raiser to advance its
21 deserving cause; and

22 WHEREAS, A positive role model for Hispanic youth and women
23 from all walks of life, Selena gave many young people hope and
24 encouragement to persevere and to follow their dreams as she did,
25 and she used her success to encourage students to complete their
26 education, to stay away from drugs, and to make healthy choices
27 through her support and involvement with many worthy organizations

1 and events, including local schools, the DARE program, the Stay in
2 School Jamboree, and the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, to name but a
3 few; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1994, Selena was awarded a Grammy for the year's
5 best Mexican-American album, "Selena Live," and went on to sweep
6 the year's Tejano Music Awards as well, winning the best album,
7 recording, female vocalist, female entertainer, and Tejano
8 crossover categories; and

9 WHEREAS, She was nominated for a Grammy again the following
10 year for the quadruple-platinum "Amor Prohibido," which produced
11 three chart-topping singles and sold more than 400,000 copies in
12 the United States alone; and

13 WHEREAS, A young woman of tremendous charisma and talent, she
14 became the first female crossover Latin artist signed to the SBK
15 sister label to the EMI Latin recording company and was recording
16 her first album in English at the time of her death in an
17 achievement that was widely expected to establish Selena as a
18 crossover star in the broader reaches of the pop music world; and

19 WHEREAS, Though she had attained fame and fortune as an
20 entertainer, Selena remained true to her roots and shared her
21 culture's long-standing devotion to family, keeping her music a
22 family affair with her husband, Chris Perez, backing her on guitar,
23 her sister, Suzette Quintanilla Arriaga, serving as her band's
24 drummer, and her brother, A. B. "Abe" Quintanilla III, assisting
25 her as her producer, bassist, and cowriter; and

26 WHEREAS, The tragedy of her death was so deeply felt by the
27 Hispanic community that the *People* magazine issue in honor of

1 Selena sold a record number of copies, and ultimately spurred the
2 creation of the popular *People En Espanol*; and

3 WHEREAS, Since Selena's passing, her life has inspired a hit
4 movie, a Broadway-bound musical, and a successful clothing line;
5 moreover, her music continues to top Latin and pop charts
6 throughout the world, with the sales of many of her records still
7 unsurpassed, and she was recently declared "Latin Artist of the
8 Decade" by *Billboard*; and

9 WHEREAS, Though her life was cut tragically short, Selena
10 Quintanilla Perez left an indelible mark on this world and brought
11 dignity and honor to her culture through her vast achievements as a
12 performer of Tejano music, and it is fitting that she be remembered
13 on the 10th anniversary of her passing, for she remains deeply
14 mourned by the adoring family, friends, and fans she left behind;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the passing of Selena Quintanilla
18 Perez and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns
19 this day, it do so in memory of Selena.