

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 2232

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

19           WHEREAS, With artistry and hard work she continued to build  
20 on her success by setting a dizzying pace for herself during which  
21 she would captivate audiences by dancing and singing in her  
22 trademark costumes; far from limiting herself to concert  
23 performances and recording albums alone, this dynamic entertainer  
24 was featured on one of Latin America's most popular shows, "Siempre

1 en Domingo," had appeared on the renowned soap opera, "Dos Mujeres,  
2 Un Camino," played a singer in the film, "Don Juan DeMarco," and had  
3 begun a new chapter in her multifaceted career with the  
4 establishment of a boutique and hair salon in Corpus Christi and San  
5 Antonio; and

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

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

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

1 School Jamboree, and the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, to name but a  
2 few; and

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, The tragedy of her death was so deeply felt by the  
26 Hispanic community that the *People* magazine issue in honor of  
27 Selena sold a record number of copies, and ultimately spurred the

1 creation of the popular *People En Espanol*; and

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 11th anniversary of the passing  
17 of Selena Quintanilla Perez.