

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 137

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Friends and fans of Tejano legend Laura Canales were
2 deeply saddened by her untimely passing on April 16, 2005, at the
3 age of 50; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on August 19, 1954, in Kingsville, Ms. Canales
5 was inspired to pursue a career in music by her choral director at
6 H. M. King High School; although few women performed in the Tejano
7 arena at the time, she made her recording debut with Los Unicos in
8 1973, the same year of her high school graduation; she later
9 performed with El Conjunto Bernal, Snowball & Company, and Encanto,
10 and among her many hits were *Eternamente*, *O Gran Dios*, *Cinco Canas*
11 *Mas*, and *Si Vivi Contigo*; an album released in 1977 ranked 10th on
12 Billboard's "Hot Latin" chart, and her 1990 record, *No Regrets*,
13 remained on the charts for 13 weeks; and

14 WHEREAS, Much of this talented Texan's popularity derived
15 from her rich and supple singing voice; known for delivering a
16 soulful punch to her polkas, rancheras, and ballads, she won
17 numerous Tejano Music Awards for Best Female Vocalist and Best
18 Female Entertainer in the 1980s and, in 1983, Governor Mark White
19 presented her with a "Yellow Rose of Texas" award; recognized for
20 her loyalty to her roots while many other Tejano artists crossed
21 over to English-language pop, she was included in the first class of
22 inductees in the Tejano Roots Hall of Fame in 2000; and

23 WHEREAS, Fun-loving and easygoing, Ms. Canales nevertheless
24 was determined to continue her education and some 20 years after her

1 high school graduation, she enrolled in courses at Texas A&M
2 University-Kingsville; after earning her undergraduate degree in
3 clinical psychology, she had begun working on her master's degree
4 when she became ill; and

5 WHEREAS, Known as "La Reina de la Onda Tejana," or "the Queen
6 of the Tejano Wave," Laura Canales is credited with breaking gender
7 barriers and opening doors for such artists as Selena, Jennifer
8 Pena, and Shelly Lares; this gifted and beloved daughter of South
9 Texas is truly missed, and the achievements of the First Lady of
10 Tejano ensure that she will never be forgotten; now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Laura Canales; and, be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives
16 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Laura Canales.