

By: Noriega

H.R. No. 407

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Pioneering broadcast journalist Elma Barrera is
2 receiving the Woman of the Year Award from the Houston chapter of
3 the League of United Latin American Citizens on February 12, 2007;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Texas, Elma Barrera graduated
6 from the University of Houston with a degree in English and Spanish
7 literature; after working in Mexico City for several years, she
8 returned to Houston and helped to organize the first National
9 Hispanic Women's Conference, an important event in the Chicano
10 movement of the 1970s; and

11 WHEREAS, This talented professional has been a
12 groundbreaking broadcast journalist for many years; at radio
13 station KAUM she hosted the first weekly program about Hispanics on
14 an English-language station in Houston, and on Channel 8, Houston's
15 PBS station, she anchored the city's first television news program
16 in Spanish; she was also a cofounder of Channel 45, Houston's first
17 Spanish-language television station; and

18 WHEREAS, Starting as an intern at KTRK, Houston's Channel 13,
19 in the early 1970s, Ms. Barrera was promoted to the post of reporter
20 three months later, becoming Houston's first female Hispanic TV
21 journalist; as one of the most respected reporters in Houston
22 broadcasting, she has covered earthquakes and the visits of
23 dignitaries, but her chief focus has always been issues of concern
24 to the Hispanic community of Houston; and

1 WHEREAS, Her engagement with the community has been further
2 deepened by her active participation in many organizations; she was
3 a cofounder of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the
4 Houston Association of Hispanic Media Professionals, and Hispanic
5 Women in Leadership; she has also served on the boards of the
6 Houston Alzheimer's Association, the Baylor College of Medicine
7 Children's Vaccination Project, and Teatro Bilingue; moreover, she
8 was chosen by the White House as one of four local organizers of the
9 first International Women's Conference; and

10 WHEREAS, Her myriad accomplishments and contributions to
11 Houston have been honored by numerous awards; she was one of the
12 first inductees into the National Association of Hispanic
13 Journalists Hall of Fame, and she is also the recipient of a
14 Lifetime Achievement Award from her alma mater, Jack Yates Senior
15 High School; and

16 WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Elma Barrera has been a
17 groundbreaking broadcaster, a welcome presence in the homes of
18 Houston's TV viewers, and a committed champion for her community
19 and her profession; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Elma Barrera on being named Woman
22 of the Year by the Houston Chapter of the League of United Latin
23 American Citizens and extend best wishes to her for continued
24 success; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for Ms. Barrera as an expression of high regard by the
27 Texas House of Representatives.