

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 67

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A 90th birthday is truly cause for celebration, and
2 Leonor Villanueva of Houston commemorated this memorable milestone
3 on July 1, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on that date in 1919 in Mexico City, Mrs.
5 Villanueva was the sixth of the 11 children of Candelaria Valencia
6 and Antonio Villanueva; her father worked for the United States
7 Embassy in Mexico's capital, and she was raised alongside her
8 siblings, Candido, Rosario, Eusebio, Antonio, Manuela, Guadalupe,
9 Pilar, Juan, Natalia, and Sara, near the city's famous street,
10 Calle de la Reforma; and

11 WHEREAS, A beloved matriarch who is affectionately referred
12 to as "Abue," Mrs. Villanueva has welcomed 4 children, Yolanda
13 Farrar, Rene Ruiz, Amalia Macias, and Reyna Rivera, as well as 11
14 grandchildren, Gabriela, Jessica, John, Carina, Norma, Juan
15 Carlos, Daniel, Claudia, Soñia, Fernando, and Monica, and 15
16 great-grandchildren, Christopher, Robert, Gabriel, Jonathan,
17 Augustine, Jesus, Luis, Alexa, Daniel, Rafael, Fernanda,
18 Alejandro, Edgar, Francisco, and Ivan into her treasured family;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Villanueva has spent much of her life raising
21 her children and grandchildren, including Gabriela Howard and
22 Jessica and John Farrar, who share fond memories of being cared for
23 by their grandmother while their mother, Yolanda, worked outside
24 the home; Mrs. Howard reflects on those early days with the utmost

1 joy, just as Ms. Farrar recalls how Mrs. Villanueva would listen
2 patiently, encourage her granddaughter to pursue her goals,
3 travels, and endeavors, and offer advice in the form of sayings,
4 like "A slanted tree grows that way because it started out that
5 way"; Mr. Farrar also remembers his childhood with "Abue," from
6 riding to and from school every day on carefully placed towels in
7 the rear basket of her three-wheeled bicycle, to finding his
8 favorite snacks and chocolate milk prepared especially for him by
9 this loving woman; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to spending time with the children, Mrs.
11 Villanueva worked in her daughter Yolanda's beauty salon, where she
12 was known as "Mama," and she was highly regarded by the customers
13 for the relaxing and vigorous shampoos she would give; at the end of
14 each day, Mrs. Villanueva prepared the daily bank deposit, adding
15 the cash and checks in her head because she did not trust
16 calculators, and she continued working into her 80s; now retired,
17 Mrs. Villanueva keeps busy with a variety of hobbies, and she
18 maintains a healthy lifestyle by engaging in physical activities
19 and meticulously monitoring her diet, with the exception of the
20 occasional dessert, of course; she also takes great pride in her
21 garden, since the plants in her care--much like the children she has
22 nurtured through the years--have flourished with her
23 attentiveness; and

24 WHEREAS, Leonor Villanueva is an inspiration to all who are
25 privileged to know her, and it is indeed a pleasure to join with her
26 relatives and friends in recognizing her 90 years of life well
27 lived; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
2 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Leonor Villanueva on
3 the occasion of her 90th birthday and extend to her sincere best
4 wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Mrs. Villanueva as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.