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R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A Texas star was forever dimmed with the tragic  
2 passing of the internationally acclaimed queen of Tejano music,  
3 Selena Quintanilla Perez, on March 31, 1995, at the age of 23, and  
4 her death both stunned and saddened the legions of fans around the  
5 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, empowering women through her  
15 inspiring lyrics and through her community involvement; and

16 WHEREAS, A positive role model for Hispanic youth and women  
17 from all walks of life, Selena gave many young people hope and  
18 encouragement to persevere and to follow their dreams as she did,  
19 and she used her success to encourage students to complete their  
20 education, to stay away from drugs, and to make healthy choices  
21 through her support and involvement with many worthy organizations  
22 and events, including local schools, the DARE program, the Stay in  
23 School Jamboree, and the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, to name but a  
24 few; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1994, Selena was awarded a Grammy for the year's  
26 best Mexican-American album, "Selena Live," and went on to sweep  
27 the year's Tejano Music Awards as well, winning the best album,

1 recording, female vocalist, female entertainer, and Tejano  
2 crossover categories; and

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

7 WHEREAS, A young woman of tremendous charisma and talent, she  
8 became the first female crossover Latin artist signed to the SBK  
9 sister label to the EMI Latin recording company and, at the time of  
10 her death, was recording her first album in English; that record was  
11 widely expected to establish Selena as a crossover star in the  
12 broader reaches of the pop music world; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The tragedy of her death was so deeply felt by the  
21 Hispanic community that the *People* magazine issue in honor of  
22 Selena sold a record number of copies, and ultimately spurred the  
23 creation of the popular *People En Espanol*; and

24 WHEREAS, After Selena's passing, her life inspired a hit  
25 movie, a Broadway-bound musical, and a successful clothing line,  
26 and the soaring popularity of her music resulted in *Billboard*  
27 naming her "Best Selling Latin Artist of the Decade" for the 1990s

1 with 18 million albums sold; and

2           WHEREAS, Though her life was cut tragically short, Selena  
3 Quintanilla Perez left an indelible mark on this world through her  
4 vast achievements as a performer of Tejano music, and it is fitting  
5 that she be remembered on the 14th anniversary of her passing, for  
6 she remains deeply mourned by the adoring family, friends, and fans  
7 she left behind; now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Selena Quintanilla  
10 Perez on March 31, 2009, the 14th anniversary of her death.