

By: Villarreal

H.R. No. 1118

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 25th anniversary of the publication of *The House*  
2 *on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros is being celebrated on April 3,  
3 2009, at the Central Library of the San Antonio Public Library  
4 System; and

5           WHEREAS, Published by Arte Publico Press in 1984, *The House*  
6 *on Mango Street* resists classification; at fewer than 115 pages, it  
7 is the length of a novella, yet its division into many sections  
8 suggests a collection of short stories, while its lyrical language  
9 often reads more like verse than prose; ultimately, it is each of  
10 these things at once; chapters can stand alone, but when read  
11 together, they combine to give the long perspective of a novel; and

12           WHEREAS, The book is narrated by a young girl named Esperanza  
13 whose family has bought their first home after years of moving;  
14 although they had dreamed of a white house with trees and a big  
15 yard, the house on Mango Street is instead "small and red" with  
16 crumbling bricks, few trees, and no front yard; the book follows  
17 Esperanza as she comes of age amid the rhythms of her new street,  
18 negotiating both the pain and the beauty of her working-class  
19 Latino culture; her insightful observations of neighbors, friends,  
20 and loved ones reveal her own budding identity and explore themes of  
21 individuality and community, escape and return, and romance and  
22 gender inequality; and

23           WHEREAS, This beloved story was inspired by Ms. Cisneros's  
24 own experience growing up in a Chicago barrio, where her family

1 finally bought a home after moving many times between Mexico and the  
2 states; she wrote secretly as a child and was later encouraged to  
3 join her high school's literary magazine, which she went on to serve  
4 as editor; earning a bachelor's degree in English from Loyola  
5 University in Chicago, she subsequently attended the prestigious  
6 Iowa Writers' Workshop, and it was there that the nascent idea for  
7 *Mango Street* took hold; and

8 WHEREAS, The year after it was published, *The House on Mango*  
9 *Street* won the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, and  
10 Ms. Cisneros became the first Chicana writer to garner mainstream  
11 attention; republished in 1989 by Vintage Books, a division of  
12 Random House, the book has since become a mainstay on classroom  
13 reading lists; moreover, it has sold more than two million copies  
14 and been translated into languages the world over; and

15 WHEREAS, For a quarter of a century, readers everywhere have  
16 been moved by the depth, insight, and richness of this  
17 coming-of-age classic, and it is indeed fitting to pay tribute to  
18 one of the most admired books of our time; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 25th anniversary of the  
21 publication of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros and  
22 extend to Ms. Cisneros sincere best wishes for continued success;  
23 and, be it further

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