

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1126

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the
2 publication of the novel *The House on Mango Street*, and this
3 occasion provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to its
4 author, Sandra Cisneros of San Antonio; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Chicago, Sandra Cisneros was born in
6 1954 and was the only daughter in a family of seven children; she
7 went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Loyola
8 University Chicago in 1976 and a master's degree in creative
9 writing from the University of Iowa two years later; in addition to
10 writing, she has worked as a teacher, counselor, college recruiter,
11 and arts administrator; and

12 WHEREAS, Developing a distinctive style and exploring issues
13 of ethnic identification and feminism within the Mexican American
14 community, Ms. Cisneros has published three books of poetry, a
15 collection of stories, a children's book, two novels, and *Vintage*
16 *Cisneros*, a compilation of her selected works; her first novel, *The*
17 *House on Mango Street*, was released in 1984, and the following year,
18 it was honored with an American Book Award from the Before Columbus
19 Foundation; this vibrant coming-of-age story has been translated
20 all over the world and has sold more than two million copies; the
21 novel is read and studied in schools across the country, and in
22 2009, Ms. Cisneros will be touring the United States to celebrate
23 its 25th anniversary with her readers; her second novel, *Caramelo*,
24 also received critical acclaim and was selected by the *New York*

1 *Times* and other journals and newspapers as a notable book of the
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, This talented author has been recognized with
4 numerous honors, including the Texas Medal of the Arts and the
5 prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship; she has been invited
6 to serve as a visiting writer at such institutions as the University
7 of California at Berkeley, and she is currently the
8 writer-in-residence at San Antonio's Our Lady of the Lake
9 University; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Cisneros draws much inspiration from the Alamo
11 City, and her collection *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*
12 references a creek located east of San Antonio, as well as other
13 areas such as the King William historic neighborhood, where she
14 lives; intent on establishing the city as a literary center, she
15 created the Macondo Foundation, a network of dedicated and
16 compassionate writers who view their work and talents as part of a
17 larger task of community-building and nonviolent social change;
18 named after the sleepy town in the Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel *One*
19 *Hundred Years of Solitude*, Macondo was established in 1995 and
20 officially incorporated in 2006, and it has grown from 15 to 120
21 members; participants gather each year at the foundation's home,
22 Our Lady of the Lake University, for the weeklong Macondo Workshop,
23 where they share ideas and critique each other's work; these poets,
24 novelists, journalists, performance artists, and writers of all
25 genres are united by their mission to advance creativity, foster
26 generosity, and honor their communities; and

27 WHEREAS, In addition to the workshop, the Macondo Foundation

1 sponsors the Casa Azul Residency Program, provides health coverage
2 to its members, and hosts events at The University of Texas at San
3 Antonio, Trinity University, the Bexar County Juvenile Detention
4 Center, and other community institutions; Ms. Cisneros has also
5 established the Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation, a
6 grant-giving organization serving Texas writers; and

7 WHEREAS, With her authentic voice and her ability to reach a
8 universal audience, Sandra Cisneros is an inspiration to her
9 readers and fellow artists, and she has further distinguished
10 herself by reaching beyond her work as a writer to serve the greater
11 community and promote social engagement; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor Sandra Cisneros on her renowned literary
14 career, and on her contributions through the Macondo Foundation,
15 and congratulate her on the 25th anniversary of the publication of
16 *The House on Mango Street*; and, be it further

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