

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1159

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Yolanda Garcia Olivarez of Corpus Christi is
2 receiving a 2009 Sor Juana Women of Achievement award from the
3 National Museum of Mexican Art, the largest Latino arts institution
4 in the country; and

5 WHEREAS, The Sor Juana Women of Achievement awards were
6 established by the NMMA in 1998 to recognize women of Mexican
7 descent who have contributed to their communities through the arts,
8 academia, volunteer work, or civic or professional leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Olivarez, a senior vice president of Wells Fargo
10 Bank, has distinguished herself as both a finance professional and
11 a community leader; before joining Wells Fargo in 1995, she built
12 her career in commercial banking with such companies as MBank,
13 Corpus Christi National Bank, and NationsBank; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2001, Ms. Olivarez became the first woman and
15 first Hispanic elected as chair of the Port of Corpus Christi
16 Authority; she was first appointed to the port commission in 1997
17 and served until January 2009; during her tenure, the port
18 experienced dramatic commercial diversification, and she played a
19 key role in the establishment of the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
20 and in numerous other important initiatives, among them the
21 construction of a loop rail track around the bulk terminal, of the
22 Congressman Solomon Ortiz International Center, and of the Gulf
23 Compress La Quinta Division, facilitation of the federal assumption
24 of the Rincon Canal and the sale of land to the City of Corpus

1 Christi for Whataburger Field and the development of adjacent
2 property for public parking, and development of master plans for
3 the waterfront in the Inner Harbor and port properties on Harbor
4 Island and La Quinta; and

5 WHEREAS, Moreover, Ms. Olivarez was instrumental in the
6 development of the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor, the
7 cold storage warehouse, and the La Quinta Trade Gateway Project, in
8 the leasing of the Corpus Christi Public Elevator to Archer Daniels
9 Midland Company, in obtaining federal designation as a strategic
10 military port, in creating the port's police department, in
11 commencing trade with Cuba, and in the planning and permitting for
12 port channel improvement projects; and

13 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan has given generously of her time
14 and talents to myriad civic and community organizations through the
15 years; since 1995, she has served as treasurer of the Corpus Christi
16 Community Development Corporation, which she helped create; the
17 organization has built more than 130 homes for first-time buyers
18 using community block grant funds; Ms. Olivarez has served as a
19 member of the board of the Del Mar College Foundation, and she
20 served as chair of the Corpus Christi American Heart Association
21 for more than three years; the recipient of numerous accolades, she
22 was inducted into the Del Mar College Wall of Honor in 2005 and has
23 been named Businesswoman of the Year by the Young Women's Christian
24 Association, the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, and several
25 other organizations; and

26 WHEREAS, Through her dedication to her community and her
27 professional accomplishments, Yolanda Olivarez has demonstrated a

1 commitment to excellence and has served as an inspiring role model
2 for many; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
4 Legislature hereby congratulate Yolanda Garcia Olivarez on
5 receiving a 2009 Sor Juana Women of Achievement award from the
6 National Museum of Mexican Art and extend to her best wishes for
7 continued success; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Ms. Olivarez as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.