

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1319

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The death of acclaimed restaurateur Viola B. Barrios
2 on April 23, 2008, at the age of 76, deeply saddened residents of
3 San Antonio; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Alfredo and Evangelina Botello, the
5 former Viola Botello was born in Bustamante in the Mexican state of
6 Nuevo Leon and moved to San Antonio as a young girl; she married
7 Jose Barrios, and the couple later became the parents of two
8 daughters and a son; after the untimely death of her husband, the
9 young widow became an entrepreneur and made many sacrifices to
10 provide for her children; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1979, Mrs. Barrios scraped together \$3,000 to
12 open a restaurant near downtown; she began serving home-style
13 Mexican food, working seven days a week until late into the night;
14 with her radiant smile and warm manner, she made each patron feel
15 welcome, and Los Barrios became an enormous success; it soon moved
16 to another location and expanded several times to eventually occupy
17 more than 7,000 square feet; the Barrios family opened a second
18 location, La Hacienda de Los Barrios, in 2004, and the
19 multimillion-dollar enterprise grew to employ more than 200 people;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, *Esquire* magazine named Los
22 Barrios one of the 100 best new restaurants in America, and the
23 establishment went on to win numerous accolades; it was listed
24 multiple times by *Hispanic Magazine* as one of the top 50 Hispanic

1 restaurants in the country and received raves from *Southern Living*
2 and *Texas Highways*; Mrs. Barrios appeared on numerous television
3 shows, including *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, and
4 *Throwdown with Bobby Flay*; always ready to share her skill and
5 knowledge, she taught cooking classes and shared her recipes in the
6 popular cookbook that her daughter, Diana Barrios Trevino,
7 published in 2002; and

8 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to helping others, Mrs. Barrios was
9 a tireless benefactor to the people of her hometown; she purchased
10 toys and school supplies for area children, flannel sheets for the
11 members of a religious order, mattresses for residents lacking
12 beds, and myriad items for those in need; moreover, she provided
13 funds for repairs to damaged roofs and renovations to a chapel, and
14 whenever she visited the second house she kept there, she cooked and
15 delivered large quantities of food for her neighbors; a niece
16 coordinated her charitable work in Bustamante, and Mrs. Barrios
17 showed her gratitude by building her a house; and

18 WHEREAS, Charming and remarkably industrious, Mrs. Barrios
19 was adored by her customers and enjoyed the high regard of her
20 community and of the restaurant industry; her myriad honors
21 included membership in the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of
22 Honor, a special award from the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of
23 Commerce, the prestigious Robert H. H. Hugman Award from the San
24 Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, and a Spirit Award from the
25 National Association of Women Business Owners; and

26 WHEREAS, Although Viola B. Barrios is profoundly missed, her
27 family continues the proud business tradition she established, and

1 memories of this kind, generous, and dynamic woman will forever be
2 treasured by those fortunate enough to have known her; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Viola B. Barrios and
6 extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her
7 daughters, Dr. Teresa Barrios Ogden and her husband, James, and
8 Diana Barrios Trevino and her husband, Roland; to her son, Luis
9 Barrios, and his wife, Traci; to her grandchildren, Analie and
10 Liliana Ogden, Jordan, Evan, and Diego Trevino, and Lindsay,
11 Hailey, and Ian Barrios, and to her many other relatives and
12 friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Viola
16 Barrios.