

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 1539

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Anita Blair has dedicated half a century to making a
2 positive difference in the Lone Star State and beyond, and she is
3 truly an inspiration to her fellow El Paso residents; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Oklahoma City, Ms. Blair was born in 1916
5 and moved with her family to the Sun City, her adopted hometown, in
6 1924; after graduating from Austin High School, she worked as a
7 secretary for the Works Progress Administration; and

8 WHEREAS, The course of Ms. Blair's life was forever changed
9 on January 26, 1936, when she was blinded in an automobile accident;
10 determined to regain her independence, she attended Seeing Eye,
11 Inc., in Morristown, New Jersey, where she was first introduced to
12 Fawn, a German shepherd that enabled her to sustain her mobility and
13 move forward with confidence and a renewed hope for a promising
14 future; and

15 WHEREAS, In the following years, Ms. Blair earned a
16 bachelor's degree from Texas College of Mines & Metallurgy and a
17 master's degree from Texas Woman's College; the first person in El
18 Paso to use a guide dog, she became widely known as an expert on the
19 subject, and assisted a number of states in establishing guide dog
20 schools; she also shared her story with traffic safety schools and
21 city government groups across the country; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Blair accomplished another remarkable feat in
23 1953 when she won election to the Texas Legislature; she
24 cosponsored a bill that allowed women to serve on Texas juries and

1 worked to improve the lives of disadvantaged individuals, the
2 educational system, and guide dog access in facilities throughout
3 the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Historians believe that Ms. Blair remains the only
5 totally blind woman in the United States to ever win election to a
6 legislative office; following her service in the Texas House, she
7 continued to advance the rights of the disenfranchised as an active
8 participant in local and national politics, and today she remains a
9 valued resource for the El Paso City Council, the County
10 Commissioners Board, and local school boards; and

11 WHEREAS, Anita Blair's life has not been defined by tragic
12 circumstance; rather, she has conquered every challenge she has
13 faced with unflinching optimism, steadfast courage, disciplined
14 determination, and the certain knowledge that her efforts could
15 provide a better future for others; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby commend Anita Blair for her decades of service
18 to her fellow Texans and extend to her sincere best wishes for the
19 future; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Ms. Blair as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.