

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 1753

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The YWCA El Paso del Norte Region is commemorating  
2 its centennial in 2009, and this notable milestone provides an  
3 opportune time to recognize Pat Mora, who has greatly contributed  
4 to its success in the community; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of El Paso, Pat Mora began working with the  
6 YWCA during the late 1970s, when the organization's board was  
7 seeking to recruit more Hispanic women into its volunteer corps;  
8 Ms. Mora subsequently created a special committee of Hispanic women  
9 and served as its chair; in this role, she focused on increasing the  
10 diversity of the YWCA board and administration and ultimately  
11 mentored many of the future leaders of the agency; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Mora also helped build a partnership between the  
13 YWCA, The University of Texas at El Paso, and the Ysleta Independent  
14 School District and implemented a mother-daughter program for  
15 fifth- and sixth-graders, encouraging them to pursue higher  
16 education; the initiative became successful in three school  
17 districts, and it continues today with the support of UT-El Paso;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The author of several award-winning books for adults  
20 and children, Ms. Mora has conducted workshops on literacy and  
21 nurturing creativity in the classroom and has been a featured  
22 speaker at various conferences, schools, and libraries; in  
23 addition, she is the founder of a family literacy initiative, "El  
24 dia de los niños/El dia de los libros," which is now based at the

1 American Library Association; this yearlong project aims to expose  
2 children to the joy of reading and to encourage them to explore  
3 diverse cultures and languages through books; and

4       WHEREAS, Through the years, Ms. Mora has received numerous  
5 accolades, including honorary doctorates in letters from North  
6 Carolina State University and University at Buffalo, the State  
7 University of New York, and she was awarded honorary membership in  
8 the American Library Association; moreover, she is the recipient of  
9 the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the Poetry Fellowship from the  
10 National Endowment for the Arts, and the Kellogg National  
11 Leadership Fellowship, and in 2006 she was given the National  
12 Hispanic Cultural Center Literary Award; and

13       WHEREAS, With her commitment to education, diversity, and the  
14 empowerment of women, Pat Mora has had a positive impact on both the  
15 YWCA and the wider community it serves, and she may indeed reflect  
16 with great pride on her notable achievements and contributions;  
17 now, therefore, be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor Pat Mora for her exemplary service to the  
20 YWCA El Paso del Norte Region and extend to her sincere best wishes  
21 for the future; and, be it further

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