

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 2238

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 40th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly
2 cause for celebration, and Monica Peña of Edinburg is marking that
3 special milestone on May 28, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1969 in Mission, Mrs. Peña is the daughter of
5 Emiliano and Lazara Luna Solis; she grew up as part of a large,
6 close-knit family that included her siblings Sylvia, Emiliano
7 Roberto, Lazara, Emiliano Dagoberto, Sandra, Elfego, and Soraida;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Peña worked in the cotton fields of West Texas
10 alongside the other members of her family and also devoted herself
11 to furthering her education; she graduated from Mission High School
12 in 1987 in the top five percent of her class and enhanced her
13 leadership skills by participating in the Lorenzo de Zavala Youth
14 Legislative Session; she then enrolled at The University of
15 Texas--Pan American, where she studied accounting and business
16 management; and

17 WHEREAS, A resident of Chicago for two years, she also lived
18 in the Texas communities of McAdoo, Alton, and Austin before
19 settling in Edinburg; she is the mother of two children, Alyssa
20 Victoria and Michael Anthony Peña, as well as three stepchildren,
21 Adrienne Peña-Garza, Aron Leonel Peña III, and John Austin Peña,
22 and she takes great pride in their achievements; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Peña has proven her abilities in two different
24 career fields; she spent two decades working for a number of South

1 Texas law firms, including Peña, McDonald, Prestia & Ornelas, the
2 Law Office of Ricardo A. Garcia, Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez, the Law
3 Office of Gary Henrichson, and Aaron Peña & Associates; since 2004,
4 she has devoted her talents to Dress for Success of the Rio Grande
5 Valley, a nonprofit organization that promotes the economic
6 independence of disadvantaged women by providing them with career
7 development support and professional attire; she initially served
8 as the president of the board of directors and has been the
9 executive director since April 2006; in addition, she took an
10 active role in the Mother's Day Out program at St. Theresa's
11 Catholic Church from August 1996 to June 1997; and

12 WHEREAS, Highly regarded by all who know her, Monica Peña has
13 distinguished herself as an accomplished professional and as a
14 loving mother and family member, and she is indeed deserving of
15 recognition for four decades of life well lived; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Monica Peña on the occasion of her
19 40th birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued
20 happiness; and, be it further

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