

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 2009 proud residents of Magnolia Park are
2 celebrating the centennial of this neighborhood, one of the first
3 Mexican American communities in Houston; and

4 WHEREAS, Magnolia Park traces its history back to 1890 when
5 John Thomas Brady developed a popular park dotted with thousands of
6 magnolia trees on approximately 1,300 acres along the Houston Ship
7 Channel; as the area grew increasingly industrialized, the Brady
8 family decided to sell the property for residential development,
9 and the Magnolia Park Land Company was chartered in January 1909;
10 four years later, the city of Magnolia Park was incorporated, its
11 two square miles bordered on the north and east by Buffalo Bayou and
12 the ship channel, on the south by Brays Bayou, and on the west by
13 rail lines; and

14 WHEREAS, Following the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in
15 1910, a wave of refugees from that country came to Texas; many who
16 made their way to Houston found employment connected to the
17 shipping industry and settled in Magnolia Park; these residents
18 developed a vibrant cultural life in clubs, schools, theatrical
19 troupes, sports and fraternal associations, and churches, most
20 notably Immaculate Conception, established in 1911, and Immaculate
21 Heart of Mary, founded in 1925; the Mexican Chamber of Commerce
22 prospered and the noteworthy Sociedad Mutualista Benito Juarez
23 provided mutual aid and a hall for social functions; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1926, Magnolia Park was annexed by the City of

1 Houston; the community continued to retain its ethnic character,
2 and by 1930, residents had established a private school, the
3 Escuela Mexicana Hidalgo, to preserve their heritage; such groups
4 as Club Femenino-Chapultepec provided recreation, promoted Mexican
5 American culture, and protested segregation, while Houston's first
6 branch of the League of United Latin American Citizens was
7 organized here in 1934; longtime landmarks and institutions still
8 enduring today include Hidalgo Park, which has served as a venue for
9 many Hispanic community events and festivals since 1927, and
10 American Legion Post No. 472, chartered in 1928, whose social
11 programs have included dances, concerts, and other functions; and

12 WHEREAS, With its strong sense of history and community,
13 Magnolia Park is one of the most distinctive neighborhoods in
14 Houston, and its residents have long contributed to the prosperity
15 and cultural vitality of the Bayou City; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of Magnolia Park and
18 extend to its residents sincere best wishes for a memorable
19 celebration; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the Magnolia Park Historical Preservation Association
22 as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
23 Representatives.

Hernandez

H.R. No. 2988

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2988 was adopted by the House on June 1, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House