

By: Hernandez

H.R. No. 2988

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.