By: Hinojosa S.C.R. No. 62

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Honorable Lena Guerrero of Austin passed away on

April 24, 2008, at the age of 50, bringing to a close a full and

4 accomplished life; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1957 to Adela and Alvaro Guerrero, Lena

Guerrero grew up in Mission, the fifth of nine children; she went on

to attend The University of Texas at Austin, where she became active

8 in the Democratic Party and where, in 1979, she became the first

9 woman and the first Hispanic elected president of the Texas Young

10 Democrats; and

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11 WHEREAS, Some five years later, at the age of 25, Ms. Guerrero

12 won election to the Texas House of Representatives, becoming only

13 the second Hispanic woman to ever hold office as a state legislator;

14 voters subsequently returned her to office three more times, and

15 during nearly a decade of service, she made her mark as a champion

16 for migrant farmworkers, teenage pregnancy prevention, and a

17 variety of environmental and social justice issues; named one of

18 the 10 best legislators of 1989 by Texas Monthly magazine, she

19 further distinguished herself as vice chair of the House Committee

20 on State Affairs and the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Guerrero was equally accomplished in her

22 professional life, serving as executive director of the Texas

23 Women's Political Caucus and as co-owner of an Austin advertising

24 and consulting firm, Bravo Communications; and

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1991, she was appointed to the Railroad
- 2 Commission by Governor Ann Richards, breaking yet another barrier
- 3 as a Hispanic woman; she was a leading supporter of tax incentives
- 4 for independent oil and gas producers and an early advocate for
- 5 alternative fuels, and she played a key role in revamping
- 6 regulation of the industry; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Ms. Guerrero was among the brightest and hardest
- 8 working public officials in Texas; she graduated from The
- 9 University of Texas at Austin in 1993, demonstrating that our
- 10 mistakes are often the gateway to growth and success in other
- 11 arenas; and
- 12 WHEREAS, This beloved woman fought brain cancer with grace,
- 13 dignity, and her trademark humor, along with the help of her
- 14 husband, Leo Aguirre, their son, "Little" Leo Aguirre, other family
- 15 members, and countless friends; although her life ended far too
- 16 soon, she will long be remembered with great affection and
- 17 admiration by all those who were privileged to know her; now,
- 18 therefore, be it
- 19 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
- 20 hereby honor the life and legacy of Lena Guerrero as a dedicated and
- 21 inspiring public servant, a loving wife, a caring mother, a trusted
- 22 friend, and a true pioneering daughter of the State of Texas.