

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 62

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Lena Guerrero of Austin passed away on
2 April 24, 2008, at the age of 50, bringing to a close a full and
3 accomplished life; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1957 to Adela and Alvaro Guerrero, Lena
5 Guerrero grew up in Mission, the fifth of nine children; she went on
6 to attend The University of Texas at Austin, where she became active
7 in the Democratic Party and where, in 1979, she became the first
8 woman and the first Hispanic elected president of the Texas Young
9 Democrats; and

10 WHEREAS, Some five years later, at the age of 25, Ms. Guerrero
11 won election to the Texas House of Representatives, becoming only
12 the second Hispanic woman to ever hold office as a state legislator;
13 voters subsequently returned her to office three more times, and
14 during nearly a decade of service, she made her mark as a champion
15 for migrant farmworkers, teenage pregnancy prevention, and a
16 variety of environmental and social justice issues; named one of
17 the 10 best legislators of 1989 by *Texas Monthly* magazine, she
18 further distinguished herself as vice chair of the House Committee
19 on State Affairs and the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Guerrero was equally accomplished in her
21 professional life, serving as executive director of the Texas
22 Women's Political Caucus and as co-owner of an Austin advertising
23 and consulting firm, Bravo Communications; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1991, she was appointed to the Railroad

1 Commission by Governor Ann Richards, breaking yet another barrier
2 as a Hispanic woman; she was a leading supporter of tax incentives
3 for independent oil and gas producers and an early advocate for
4 alternative fuels, and she played a key role in revamping
5 regulation of the industry; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Guerrero was among the brightest and hardest
7 working public officials in Texas; she graduated from UT-Austin in
8 1993, demonstrating that our mistakes are often the gateway to
9 growth and success in other arenas; and

10 WHEREAS, This beloved woman fought brain cancer with grace,
11 dignity, and her trademark humor, along with the help of her
12 husband, Leo Aguirre, their son, "Little" Leo Aguirre, other family
13 members, and countless friends; although her life ended far too
14 soon, she will long be remembered with great affection and
15 admiration by all those who were privileged to know her; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby honor the life and legacy of Lena Guerrero as a dedicated and
19 inspiring public servant, a loving wife, a caring mother, a trusted
20 friend, and a true pioneering daughter of the State of Texas.