

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and a host of friends will forever carry with
2 them the memory of the love and affection they shared with Nidia Ann
3 Leal, who lost her life on Memorial Day 1999 at the age of 40; and

4 WHEREAS, Nidia was born in Wichita Falls to Lucia and Alfredo
5 Garcia of Rio Grande City on November 30, 1958; she and her older
6 brother, Noel, were raised with great love and devotion by their
7 parents until Mr. and Mrs. Garcia's early passing; the children
8 were then cared for by their aunt and uncle, Faustina and Reynaldo
9 Molina, who instilled in them the power of faith, the importance of
10 honesty, the value of work, and the significance of an education;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Nidia attended Rio Grande City High School, where
13 she participated in the local 4-H Club and graduated in three years'
14 time as valedictorian of the Class of 1976; she then enrolled at
15 Texas A&M University and completed her studies there in two and a
16 half years, earning her bachelor's degree, with a major in English
17 and a minor in Spanish, in December 1978; and

18 WHEREAS, Nidia's rapid progress through college was all the
19 more striking because during that same time she married and started
20 a family; wed to Mario Guillen, she gave birth to her first child,
21 Ryan, in 1977, and to her daughter, Kimberly, a few years later; and

22 WHEREAS, Nidia subsequently earned a master's degree in
23 education from The University of Texas--Pan American; over the
24 course of two decades, she enjoyed a respected career as a teacher,

1 counselor, assistant principal, and director of adult education for
2 the Region One Education Service Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Her own modest upbringing, coupled with lessons she
4 absorbed as a child, engendered in Nidia a deep sense of empathy,
5 and she contributed to a number of charities, among them St. Jude
6 Children's Research Hospital, The University of Texas M. D.
7 Anderson Cancer Center, and the Salvation Army; and

8 WHEREAS, Nidia and her second husband, Patricio, shared a
9 rewarding union; in her free time, she enjoyed camping and hiking
10 with her family, walking her dogs, dancing, and singing country
11 music; she also regularly attended her husband's soccer games and
12 readily helped her children with their 4-H projects; for many
13 years, she was a staunch booster of the FFA and 4-H programs; and

14 WHEREAS, This beloved woman wore a beautiful smile and made
15 friends everywhere she went; a trusted mentor to countless youth
16 and adults in her community, she especially sought to be a strong
17 role model for her two children, and she committed herself
18 wholeheartedly to supporting their academic and personal success;
19 in her speech to the top graduates of the Rio Grande City High
20 School Class of 1999, just before her death, she expressed her pride
21 in her children's achievements; both her son and her daughter
22 followed in her footsteps and graduated from Texas A&M; Kimberly
23 Guillen now owns a business in the Rio Grande Valley and Ryan
24 Guillen represents the people of District 31 in the Texas House of
25 Representatives; and

26 WHEREAS, Nidia Ann Leal brought to her many endeavors an
27 inexhaustible dedication and generosity of spirit, and though her

1 journey on this earth ended far too soon, her life continues to
2 enrich all who knew and cherished her; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
4 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby join the family of Nidia
5 Ann Leal in honoring her exemplary and inspirational life; and, be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Nidia Ann
10 Leal.