

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 119

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Locally owned businesses are vital to the economic  
2 well-being of Texas communities, and in 2011, the Liberty Cafe is  
3 celebrating 30 years of service to the residents of Freer; and

4 WHEREAS, Established in 1981 by Idalia and Benjamin Salinas,  
5 the eatery was inspired by one of the same name that Mrs. Salinas's  
6 parents owned in Benavides and later in Freer; after that  
7 restaurant closed, Mrs. Salinas dreamed of one day opening her own  
8 Liberty Cafe; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Salinas worked for the Freer Independent School  
10 District, but he wanted to help his wife achieve her dream; he hired  
11 a contractor to build the shell of a building, and he and the  
12 couple's children worked to finish out the interior; once the  
13 restaurant opened, both Mr. and Mrs. Salinas devoted their lives to  
14 it, working more than 17 hours a day and often sleeping there on  
15 cots; the cafe soon became popular among border patrol agents who  
16 worked in the area, and their request for a fresh, not frozen,  
17 hamburger patty is what eventually gave way to the restaurant's  
18 most popular item; and

19 WHEREAS, The youngest of their 11 children, Martha "Martie"  
20 Salinas Delay took over the cafe in 1994, when her mother's health  
21 began to fail; she has overseen an expansion of the building,  
22 including extra dining space and a porch, and she is supported in  
23 her efforts by her siblings Carlos, Eddie, and Chris; although Mr.  
24 and Mrs. Salinas both passed away in the early 2000s, their memory

1 lives on in the very tangible reminder of their determination, hard  
2 work, and accomplishment, and their photos placed at the register  
3 are a daily inspiration to their children and grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, One of only a few family-owned restaurants in Freer,  
5 the Liberty Cafe continues to thrive three decades after it opened,  
6 and it is indeed a pleasure to honor the establishment on the  
7 occasion of this milestone year; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 30th  
10 anniversary of the Liberty Cafe and extend to Martha Salinas Delay  
11 and her siblings and staff sincere best wishes for continued  
12 success; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Liberty Cafe as an expression of high regard by the  
15 Texas House of Representatives.