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H.R. No. 45

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A Texas star was forever dimmed with the tragic
2 passing of the internationally acclaimed queen of Tejano music,
3 Selena Quintanilla Perez, on March 31, 1995, at the age of 23, and
4 her death both stunned and saddened the legions of fans around the
5 world whose lives had been touched by her music; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Lake Jackson, Texas, on April 16, 1971, this
7 extremely gifted young woman developed her love for music at an
8 early age, having begun singing at the age of six and performing
9 with Los Dinos, the Quintanilla family band, by the age of nine,
10 following her family's move to Corpus Christi; and

11 WHEREAS, Selena recorded her first album while still in her
12 early teens, and as her popularity grew, her band became known as
13 Selena y los Dinos; blessed with the guidance of her father, Abraham
14 Quintanilla, who served as her manager and booking agent, she
15 successfully made the transition from teen star to adult artist and
16 garnered her first serious recognition in 1987 when she was named
17 Female Vocalist of the Year and Performer of the Year at the Tejano
18 Music Awards in San Antonio; and

19 WHEREAS, With artistry and hard work she continued to build
20 on her success by setting a dizzying pace for herself during which
21 she would captivate audiences by dancing and singing in her
22 trademark costumes; far from limiting herself to concert
23 performances and recording albums alone, this dynamic entertainer
24 was featured on one of Latin America's most popular shows, *Siempre*

1 *en Domingo*, had appeared on the renowned soap opera *Dos Mujeres*, *Un*
2 *Camino*, played a singer in the film *Don Juan DeMarco*, and had begun
3 a new chapter in her multifaceted career with the establishment of a
4 boutique and hair salon in Corpus Christi and San Antonio; and

5 WHEREAS, Selena became an internationally recognized star
6 who was especially revered in Mexico, throughout Latin America, and
7 in her home state of Texas, and while developing her own phenomenal
8 career, she was also instrumental in transforming the Tejano music
9 industry into one of the fastest growing markets of music in the
10 world; and

11 WHEREAS, Her achievements as an entertainer gave her a means
12 by which to reach a broader audience, and she put her accessibility
13 to her adoring fans to good use, empowering women through her
14 inspiring lyrics and through her community involvement; and

15 WHEREAS, A positive role model for Hispanic youth and women
16 from all walks of life, Selena gave many young people hope and
17 encouragement to persevere and to follow their dreams as she did,
18 and she used her success to encourage students to complete their
19 education, to stay away from drugs, and to make healthy choices
20 through her support and involvement with many worthy organizations
21 and events, including local schools, the DARE program, the Stay in
22 School Jamboree, and the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, to name but a
23 few; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1994, Selena was awarded a Grammy for the year's
25 best Mexican-American album, *Selena Live*, and went on to sweep the
26 year's Tejano Music Awards as well, winning the best album,
27 recording, female vocalist, female entertainer, and Tejano

1 crossover categories; and

2 WHEREAS, She was nominated for a Grammy again the following
3 year for the quadruple-platinum *Amor Prohibido*, which produced
4 three chart-topping singles and sold more than 400,000 copies in
5 the United States alone; and

6 WHEREAS, A young woman of tremendous charisma and talent, she
7 became the first female crossover Latin artist signed to the SBK
8 sister label to the EMI Latin recording company and, at the time of
9 her death, was recording her first album in English; that record was
10 widely expected to establish Selena as a crossover star in the
11 broader reaches of the pop music world; and

12 WHEREAS, Though she had attained fame and fortune as an
13 entertainer, Selena remained true to her roots and shared her
14 culture's long-standing devotion to family, keeping her music a
15 family affair with her husband, Chris Perez, backing her on guitar,
16 her sister Suzette Quintanilla Arriaga serving as her band's
17 drummer, and her brother A. B. "Abe" Quintanilla III assisting her
18 as her producer, bassist, and cowriter; and

19 WHEREAS, The tragedy of her death was so deeply felt by the
20 Hispanic community that the *People* magazine issue in honor of
21 Selena sold a record number of copies, and ultimately spurred the
22 creation of the popular *People En Espanol*; and

23 WHEREAS, After Selena's passing, her life inspired a hit
24 movie, a Broadway-bound musical, and a successful clothing line,
25 and the soaring popularity of her music resulted in *Billboard*
26 naming her "Best Selling Latin Artist of the Decade" for the 1990s
27 with 18 million albums sold; and

1 WHEREAS, Though her life was cut tragically short, Selena
2 Quintanilla Perez left an indelible mark on this world through her
3 vast achievements as a performer of Tejano music, and it is fitting
4 that she be remembered on the 17th anniversary of her passing, for
5 she remains deeply mourned by the adoring family, friends, and fans
6 she left behind; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Selena Quintanilla
9 Perez on March 31, 2012, the 17th anniversary of her death.