

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 702

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Raul Salinas was posthumously recognized by the
2 Austin History Center in conjunction with its exhibit *Mexican*
3 *American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County*; and

4 WHEREAS, Honoring the important contributions made by
5 Mexican Americans to Central Texas, the Austin History Center and
6 its association joined with the Austin Public Library to organize
7 the show, which ran from August 21, 2010, through January 16, 2011;
8 *Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County*
9 celebrated the pioneering achievements of 32 remarkable men and
10 women and provided the public with an opportunity to learn more
11 about their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, One such individual, Raul Salinas, was honored for
13 his achievements as a poet and activist; born in 1934, Mr. Salinas
14 was a pioneer of Chicano poetry; influenced by jazz and the Beat
15 poets, he found his artistic voice, earned college degrees, and
16 developed his passion for social justice over the approximately 12
17 years that he served in prison, and he eventually produced a number
18 of critically acclaimed books of poetry, including *Un Trip Through*
19 *the Mind Jail y Otras Excursions* and *East of the Freeway:*
20 *Reflections de Mi Pueblo*; in 1981 he opened Resistencia Bookstore
21 in Austin, a resource that has served as a cultural and political
22 center for the community, and two years later he established Red
23 Salmon Arts, which hosts performances and other cultural events;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, A tireless champion for human rights, Mr. Salinas
2 worked with the American Indian Movement and El Centro de la Raza
3 and also advocated in behalf of prisoners; as his reputation grew,
4 he devoted a significant amount of time to teaching classes at St.
5 Edward's University and presenting workshops at youth correctional
6 facilities and community centers; and

7 WHEREAS, Through his outstanding accomplishments, Raul
8 Salinas made a positive difference in his community, and his legacy
9 is a source of pride and inspiration to many people; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Raul Salinas, a
13 Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County.