

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 703

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Susana R. Almanza was recognized by the Austin
2 History Center in conjunction with its exhibit *Mexican American*
3 *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, Susana Almanza, was honored for
13 her achievements in public health; she grew up in East Austin and
14 began working in behalf of her community while still a teenager; as
15 a freshman in high school, she joined the lettuce boycott, and she
16 participated in the Economy Furniture workers' strike in the late
17 1960s; and

18 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to social justice, Ms. Almanza
19 served as co-chair of the Brown Berets and worked to heighten
20 awareness of civil rights issues such as police brutality, an
21 absence of available youth activities, and the need for improvement
22 in housing, education, and other services in East Austin; in 1991,
23 she cofounded People Organized in Defense of Earth and her
24 Resources, or PODER, an organization that strives to empower the

1 community to address environmental and social justice issues as
2 basic human rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Susana Almanza has made a positive difference in her
4 community, and her outstanding accomplishments are a source of
5 pride and inspiration to many people; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
7 Legislature hereby congratulate Susana R. Almanza on her selection
8 as a Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County and
9 extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Ms. Almanza as an expression of high regard by the
12 Texas House of Representatives.