

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Manuel Donley was recognized by the Austin History  
2 Center in conjunction with its exhibit *Mexican American Firsts:*  
3 *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, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley was  
13 honored for his achievements in the arts; now considered "the  
14 Godfather of Tejano Music," he was performing seven nights a week by  
15 the time he was 17; he developed his signature sound playing  
16 requinto guitar in Los Heartbreakers, the first Mexican American  
17 band in Austin to play rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues; and

18           WHEREAS, Mr. Donley found national success after forming Las  
19 Estrellas in 1955; his compositions and innovative, horn-fueled  
20 arrangements filtered Mexican rancheras, polkas, boleros, and  
21 ballads through such influences as big band, rock, and R&B, and the  
22 group's high-profile performances included a concert at the  
23 Smithsonian Institute for the United States Bicentennial; in  
24 addition to mentoring countless musicians as a bandleader, he

1 taught for many years at Huston-Tillotson University; he was  
2 inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1986 and is featured  
3 in the Austin Latino Music Association Trail of Tejano Legends; and

4 WHEREAS, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley has made a positive  
5 difference in his community, and his outstanding accomplishments  
6 are a source of pride and inspiration to many people; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Manuel Donley on his selection as a  
10 Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County and extend  
11 to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Rodriguez

H.R. No. 722

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 722 was adopted by the House on March 17, 2011, by a non-record vote.

---

Chief Clerk of the House