

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 722

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.