

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, John N. Vasquez 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, John Vasquez, was honored for
13 his achievements in public service; in 1961, Mr. Vasquez applied
14 for a cadet position with the Austin Police Department but was
15 turned down because it was claimed he was too small; he appealed the
16 decision and won, becoming only the fourth Hispanic on the Austin
17 police force; moreover, his appeal set the tenor for a career in law
18 enforcement in which he would challenge the status quo; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1966, he took the promotional exam for sergeant;
20 despite being told by other officers he should not bother, he
21 achieved the second-highest score and became the first Hispanic
22 sergeant in the APD; he was promoted to lieutenant in 1971 after
23 scoring highest on its qualifying exam; with his new rank, he was
24 assigned to the recruiting division, where he worked tirelessly to

1 create a more diverse police force; in 1979, he became the first
2 Hispanic APD police captain and headed the criminal investigations
3 bureau; Captain Vasquez retired in 1989, widely recognized for
4 having broken barriers for Hispanic police on the Austin force; and

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

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate John N. Vasquez on his selection as
10 a Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County and
11 extend 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 Captain Vasquez as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.

Rodriguez

H.R. No. 727

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 727 was adopted by the House on March 17, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House