

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 727

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.