

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rodolfo Mendez 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, Rodolfo Mendez, was honored for
13 his achievements in the arts; as a young man in East Austin, Mr.
14 Mendez began to learn flamenco from teachers at the Pan American
15 Recreation Center, later studying with the Austin Civic Ballet;
16 during his senior year at LBJ High School, he won first place as a
17 flamenco dancer in a state talent competition, and he went on to
18 study in New York with the Martha Graham School of Contemporary
19 Dance, the American Ballet Theatre, and the Alvin Ailey American
20 Dance School; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Mendez served in the Peace Corps, dancing with
22 the national companies in Chile and Costa Rica and developing a
23 theater and dance curriculum for the schools in Costa Rica; he has
24 worked as a dancer in off-Broadway shows and in touring companies,

1 and he earned a Fulbright Scholarship to study flamenco in Spain; in
2 1978, he founded the Ballet East Dance Company in Austin, where as
3 artistic director he has choreographed more than 40 original works
4 and implemented the Preservation of Texas Choreography series; and

5 WHEREAS, Rodolfo Mendez 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 Rodolfo Mendez 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 Mr. Mendez as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.

Rodriguez

H.R. No. 729

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 729 was adopted by the House on March 17, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House