

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 729

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.