

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 731

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Gilbert C. Rivera was recognized by the Austin  
2 History Center in conjunction with its exhibit *Mexican American*  
3 *Firsts: 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, Gilbert Rivera, was honored for  
13 his achievements in the humanities; the child of farm laborers who  
14 migrated to western Michigan each summer, he grew up working in the  
15 fields and enduring poverty, and he was the first in his family to  
16 graduate from high school and college; he worked for a time with the  
17 Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Department, and,  
18 building from his experiences there, he became an activist for  
19 vulnerable youth and the Chicano community; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Rivera played a key role in the formation of  
21 various social justice and environmental organizations, including  
22 the Brown Berets and PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and  
23 Her Resources), and in collaboration with Austin Community  
24 Television he produced two local documentaries, *We Will Always Be*

1 *Here and The Day the Klan Marched*; and

2 WHEREAS, Gilbert Rivera has made a positive difference in his  
3 community, and his outstanding accomplishments are a source of  
4 pride and inspiration to many people; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
6 Legislature hereby congratulate Gilbert C. Rivera on his selection  
7 as a Mexican American Trailblazer of Austin and Travis County and  
8 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Mr. Rivera as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
11 House of Representatives.