

By: Sheffield

H.R. No. 831

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Legendary Texas musician Little Joe Hernandez and
2 his band La Familia added to their long list of accomplishments by
3 winning the Grammy Award for Best Tejano Album at the 53rd annual
4 Grammy Awards on February 13, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, The award honored the group's album *Recuerdos*, and
6 it marked the fourth time that Little Joe y La Familia has taken
7 home a gold statuette from The Recording Academy; the band has also
8 received five other Grammy nominations through the years, and these
9 honors are just one measure of the success it has enjoyed in a long
10 and hugely influential career; and

11 WHEREAS, Born in Temple in 1940, Jose Maria De Leon Hernandez
12 began performing while still in his teens, and in 1959 became the
13 leader of Little Joe and the Latinaires, a group that also included
14 his younger brother, Jesse; when Jesse was killed in a car accident
15 five years later, Little Joe vowed to bring the dreams they shared
16 of musical success to fruition, and in the 1960s and early 1970s he
17 and his bandmates began to build a strong following while
18 pioneering an exciting new brand of music; mixing traditional
19 Mexican *norteno* with elements of country, blues, rock, and big-band
20 swing, their sound helped create the style that would later become
21 known as Tejano; and

22 WHEREAS, In the early 1970s, the ensemble took the name La
23 Familia, as the members more closely embraced their cultural
24 heritage, and Little Joe's songs became anthems of ethnic pride for

1 Hispanics throughout the United States and beyond; and

2 WHEREAS, Through the decades, this beloved group has released
3 more than 50 albums and realized many milestones, including
4 becoming the first Tejano act to claim a Grammy, an achievement that
5 took place in 1992; in collecting another award in 2011, Little Joe
6 y La Familia has demonstrated that its music remains as vital as
7 ever, and its leader and members may take justifiable pride in the
8 role they have played in furthering the notable musical reputation
9 of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate Little Joe y La Familia on winning
12 the Grammy Award for Best Tejano Album at the 53rd annual Grammy
13 Awards and extend to Mr. Hernandez and the members of his band
14 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the group as an expression of high regard by the Texas
17 House of Representatives.