

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 100

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Petra Margarita Gonzales of Bexar County is marking
2 a special milestone in her life with the observance of her 90th
3 birthday on July 23, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1923, the former Petra Herrera was raised in
5 San Antonio by her parents, Fidencio Herrera and Maxima Ramos, and
6 has resided in Bexar County throughout her lifetime; she spent her
7 formative years in San Antonio schools and is a graduate of Lanier
8 High; and

9 WHEREAS, She exchanged wedding vows with Frank Y. Gonzales,
10 and together they became the parents of five children; now
11 a widow, she is the proud, doting matriarch of a family that
12 includes 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a
13 great-great-grandchild; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gonzales was deeply involved in her children's
15 school activities, serving as the first Hispanic president of the
16 St. Michael's Academy parent-teacher group, as a Girl Scout leader,
17 and as the first Hispanic catechist and coordinator at
18 St. Cecilia's Catholic School; during the 1990s, she continued her
19 civic participation in Cellular on Patrol Southeast, representing
20 the Riverside Neighborhood Association, and she received a plaque
21 recognizing her dedication to the important goal of public safety;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gonzales recalls a time in the 1950s when a
24 poll tax was required to cast votes, a practice that barred many

1 poorer citizens from exercising their civic right; the eventual
2 prohibition of poll taxes in 1964 increased her interest in the
3 voting process and her drive to ensure its fairness; she was one of
4 the first Hispanics to serve as an election clerk and an election
5 judge in the 1960s, and she volunteered her time in behalf of Bexar
6 County elections until 2001; this civic-minded Texan also worked in
7 support of various Democratic candidates into her eighties, and she
8 continues to be an advocate for voting at the local and national
9 levels; and

10 WHEREAS, An esteemed woman who is a source of inspiration to
11 all who know her, Petra Gonzales has devoted herself wholeheartedly
12 to her loved ones, her community, and her country, and it is a
13 distinct pleasure to honor her on nine decades of a life well lived;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Petra
17 Margarita Gonzales on her 90th birthday and extend to her warmest
18 wishes for the future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mrs. Gonzales as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.