

By: Gutierrez

H.C.R. No. 121

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Norteno music legend Ramon Ayala is visiting the  
2 State Capitol on May 15, 2013, in celebration of his 50th year in  
3 music, and this occasion provides an ideal opportunity to recognize  
4 this acclaimed accordionist, songwriter, and singer; and

5 WHEREAS, A longtime resident of Hidalgo, Mr. Ayala was born  
6 in Monterrey, Mexico, on December 8, 1945; he took up his signature  
7 instrument at the age of six and helped support his family with his  
8 playing; as a teenager, he teamed with Cornelio Reyna to form Los  
9 Relampagos del Norte, which synthesized traditional norteno music  
10 with more modern elements from Texas conjunto; their brilliant  
11 fusion defined norteno in the 1960s, and their many hits, including  
12 "Ya No Llores" and "El Disgusto," have been covered by countless  
13 other artists through the years; and

14 WHEREAS, Los Relampagos recorded 20 albums before the members  
15 parted ways in 1971; subsequently, the accordion virtuoso found  
16 even greater success leading Ramon Ayala y Sus Bravos del Norte;  
17 songs such as "Un Rinconcito en el Cielo," "Chaparra de Mi Amor,"  
18 and "Tragos Amargos" became norteno standards, and Mr. Ayala has  
19 remained much in demand as a performer, on stage, on television, and  
20 in more than a dozen movies; and

21 WHEREAS, Nominated for several Grammy Awards, Mr. Ayala won  
22 the honor in the Best Mexican-American Album category in 2001 for  
23 *En Vivo... El Hombre Y Su Musica*, and he produced the 2010 Best  
24 Norteno Album winner, *Classic*, a tribute to Los Relampagos by

1 contemporary superstars Intocable; Mr. Ayala has also received two  
2 Latin Grammys, and in 1997, Los Relampagos was inducted into the  
3 Pura Vida Music Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Ayala has demonstrated a deep commitment to his  
5 community, and in 2000, he sponsored the first Ramon Ayala  
6 Christmas Posada, an event highlighted by a toy giveaway for area  
7 children; the presents delight some 10,000 youngsters annually and  
8 are an especially treasured holiday tradition for those from  
9 disadvantaged backgrounds; and

10 WHEREAS, The posada also includes a mass and a Nativity  
11 reenactment, and the day comes to an exciting close when the man  
12 known as "El Rey del Accordeon"--the "King of the Accordion"--joins  
13 with other performers to present a free concert; the event was moved  
14 from his hometown of Hidalgo to the community of Las Milpas in 2012;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Ramon Ayala has made vital contributions to Texas  
17 music through his innovations and artistry, and while delighting  
18 countless Tejano fans over the course of his career, he has been  
19 equally devoted to bringing the joy of the holiday season to all  
20 members of his community; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
22 hereby declare May 15, 2013, as Ramon Ayala Day at the State Capitol  
23 and congratulate Mr. Ayala on his 50th anniversary in music; and,  
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for Mr. Ayala as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
27 House of Representatives and Senate.