

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 53

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Crystal City student walkout, during the winter
2 of 1969-1970, stands as one of the most successful Chicano boycotts
3 in the history of the Southwest; and

4 WHEREAS, Beginning in the spring of 1969, Chicano students at
5 Crystal City High School began to present school authorities and
6 the school board with a series of demands intended to redress a long
7 history of discriminatory practices against Chicano students; on
8 December 9, 1969, after the school board had repeatedly resisted
9 dealing with the majority of the students' grievances, a number of
10 Chicano students at the high school began a well-organized boycott
11 of their classes; led by Severita Lara, Mario Trevino, and Diana
12 Serna, the boycott grew daily and even spread to the junior high and
13 elementary schools; by the time the schools closed for the
14 Christmas holidays, between one-half and two-thirds of all the
15 students in the city's public schools were boycotting their
16 classes; and

17 WHEREAS, The student walkout in Crystal City served as a
18 galvanizing force in organizing the Chicano residents of that town
19 and the surrounding area; the influence of the boycott became
20 manifest not only in the fairer treatment that Chicano students
21 received in the schools of Crystal City but in the dramatic new
22 political power that Chicano citizens came to exercise in certain
23 communities of South Texas; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

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1 Legislature hereby commemorate the 44th anniversary of the 1969
2 Crystal City student walkout and commend all who work to create a
3 more just and inclusive society in the Lone Star State.