

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a passionate activist and  
2 esteemed civic leader with the death of Sylvia Rodriguez of San  
3 Antonio, who passed away on January 23, 2013, at the age of 71; and

4           WHEREAS, Sylvia Rodriguez first discovered her enthusiasm  
5 for politics while working as an administrative assistant for Texas  
6 state senator Joe J. Bernal during the 1965 legislative session;  
7 soon after leaving the position in 1973, she became actively  
8 involved in the Democratic Party, running voter registration  
9 drives, organizing successful community events, orchestrating  
10 political fund-raising campaigns, and helping women candidates get  
11 elected to office; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1975, Mrs. Rodriguez became a charter member of  
13 the Mexican American Democrats of Texas, and by 1978 she was  
14 appointed to the Democratic National Committee; the first Hispanic  
15 woman from San Antonio named to the organization, she later became  
16 the founder and first chair of the party's Hispanic Caucus; in 1980,  
17 President Jimmy Carter invited Mrs. Rodriguez to lead the  
18 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the Democratic National  
19 Convention; and

20           WHEREAS, While she shuttled between commitments in  
21 Washington, D.C., and Texas, Mrs. Rodriguez also served as director  
22 of the annual San Fernando Health and Safety Fair, where she  
23 organized and coordinated hundreds of volunteers to help provide  
24 health screenings and medical consultations to thousands of

1 uninsured and undocumented people who did not have access to health  
2 care; and

3 WHEREAS, A proud member of many local and national community  
4 organizations, Mrs. Rodriguez participated in Las Damas de San  
5 Fernando, the Political Divas of San Antonio, Parent/Child, Inc.,  
6 the YWCA, the Inman Christian Center, and the Commission for  
7 Mexican American Affairs; in addition, she was a founding member  
8 and treasurer of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas and she  
9 organized the first Hispanas Unidas Conference, which more than  
10 1,000 women attended; for her tireless efforts working in behalf of  
11 women, Hispanic Texans, and Americans, Mrs. Rodriguez was inducted  
12 into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rodriguez's faith sustained her and motivated  
14 her commitment to community service, and she was a Eucharistic  
15 minister and lector at her church; and

16 WHEREAS, This beloved Texan was supported in all of her  
17 endeavors by her family, including her husband, Gene, who was her  
18 partner in activism and whom she affectionately called "sweet'ert";  
19 the couple enjoyed 45 years of marriage and were blessed with a  
20 daughter, Clarissa; and

21 WHEREAS, Sylvia Rodriguez was a national Hispanic political  
22 leader, a trailblazing role model for women, and a loving wife,  
23 mother, and friend; though she will be deeply missed, her legacy  
24 will extend well beyond her passing; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
26 Legislature hereby honor the life of Sylvia Rodriguez and offer  
27 sincere condolences to her family: to her husband, Eugene

1 Rodriguez; to her daughter, Clarissa M. Rodriguez; and to her other  
2 relatives and many friends, including Dora Dilley, Jeannette and  
3 Telesforo Gutierrez, Yolanda and John Johnson, Roger Rodriguez,  
4 Nancy Rodriguez and Viviana Enrique, Carol and Larry Medellin,  
5 Elizabeth Rodriguez, and Anthony and Hilda Rodriguez; and, be it  
6 further

7         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sylvia  
10 Rodriguez.

Martinez Fischer

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 248

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 248 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on January 29, 2013.

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Chief Clerk of the House