

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 248

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.