

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1494

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Over the course of a long and accomplished career,  
2 Juan "Johnny" Canales of Corpus Christi has played an important  
3 role in popularizing Tejano music through his influential work as a  
4 television and radio host, and his contributions are deeply  
5 appreciated by legions of fans; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Canales grew up in Robstown, and his  
7 introduction to music and hard work came at an early age; he helped  
8 his family in the cotton fields by day and then played guitar and  
9 sang at night as part of a duo with his father; and

10           WHEREAS, After serving his nation as a member of the U.S. Army  
11 in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Mr. Canales returned home and  
12 started a band, Johnny Canales y Su Orquesta; the group specialized  
13 in providing entertainment for migrant workers throughout the  
14 nation, and the band's recording "El Corrido de Augustine Ramirez"  
15 became a hit on Tejano stations in Texas; and

16           WHEREAS, His fame as a musician helped Mr. Canales land a job  
17 as a disc jockey at Radio Jalapeno in Corpus Christi, and he quickly  
18 became a popular on-air personality, famous for his catchphrase,  
19 "You got it! Take it away!"; he made the jump to television in the  
20 early 1980s with *El Show de Johnny Canales*, a variety program that  
21 was initially syndicated to stations in Texas and later broadcast  
22 in the United States by Univision and in 23 other countries by  
23 Televisa; and

24           WHEREAS, Living up to its slogan "Donde nacen las estrellas"

1 ("Where stars are born"), *El Show de Johnny Canales* hosted some of  
2 the earliest TV performances of the Tejano superstar Selena, and  
3 the show was also instrumental in launching such popular performers  
4 as Los Huracanes del Norte, Conjunto Primavera, Los Temerarios,  
5 Bronco, Ramon Ayala y Sus Bravos del Norte, and Bobby Pulido, among  
6 many others; after the tragic death of Selena in 1995, Mr. Canales  
7 broadcast a television special in her memory, "Recordando Selena,"  
8 which garnered huge ratings and helped demonstrate the growing  
9 power and sweep of the Latino audience; a measure of his popularity  
10 in international markets came in 2001, when a taping of his show in  
11 Monterrey, Mexico, drew 135,000 fans; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Canales has used his fame  
13 and influence to support causes he believes in; he has been active  
14 in civic and voter-education initiatives, and he has assisted such  
15 organizations as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational  
16 Fund, Operation Supply Our Students, the League of United Latin  
17 American Citizens, the American G.I. Forum, and the Southwest Voter  
18 Registration Education Project; and

19 WHEREAS, This beloved entertainer's show business  
20 achievements and his efforts to benefit others have earned him  
21 hundreds of official honors, including recognition from the  
22 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and a Lifetime Achievement  
23 Award from the Tejano Music Awards; ten video performances from *The*  
24 *Johnny Canales Show* are part of the permanent collection of the UCLA  
25 Chicano Studies Research Center and have previously been exhibited  
26 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; and

27 WHEREAS, Through his talent and dedication to showcasing

1 gifted entertainers, Johnny Canales has brought enjoyment to  
2 countless people and helped further the influence of Latino music  
3 and culture in Texas, across the nation, and around the world; now,  
4 therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
6 Legislature hereby congratulate Juan "Johnny" Canales on his  
7 lasting success in the entertainment industry and honor him for his  
8 civic contributions; and, be it further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Mr. Canales as an expression of high regard and best  
11 wishes by the Texas House of Representatives.