

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 63

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 16, 2015, marks the 44th anniversary of the
2 birth of the internationally acclaimed queen of Tejano music,
3 Selena Quintanilla Pérez; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on that day in 1971 in Lake Jackson, this
5 extremely gifted young woman developed her love for music at an
6 early age, having begun singing at the age of six and performing
7 with Los Dinos, the Quintanilla family band, by the age of nine; and

8 WHEREAS, Selena recorded her first album while still in her
9 teens, and as her popularity grew, her band became known as Selena y
10 Los Dinos; blessed with the guidance of her father, Abraham
11 Quintanilla, who served as her manager and booking agent, she
12 successfully made the transition from teen star to adult artist and
13 garnered her first serious recognition in 1987 when she was named
14 Female Vocalist of the Year and Performer of the Year at the Tejano
15 Music Awards in San Antonio; and

16 WHEREAS, With artistry and hard work, she continued to build
17 on her success by setting a dizzying pace for herself during which
18 she would captivate audiences by dancing and singing in her
19 trademark costumes; in addition to performing at concerts and
20 recording albums, this dynamic entertainer was featured on one of
21 Latin America's most popular shows, *Siempre en Domingo*, appeared on
22 the renowned soap opera *Dos Mujeres, Un Camino*, played a singer in
23 the film *Don Juan DeMarco*, and had begun a new chapter in her
24 multifaceted career with the establishment of a boutique and hair

1 salon in Corpus Christi and San Antonio; and

2 WHEREAS, Selena became an internationally recognized star
3 who was especially revered in Mexico, throughout Latin America, and
4 in her home state of Texas, and while developing her own phenomenal
5 career, she was also instrumental in transforming the Tejano music
6 industry into one of the fastest-growing markets of music in the
7 world; and

8 WHEREAS, Her achievements as an entertainer gave her a means
9 by which to reach a broader audience, and she put her accessibility
10 to her fans to good use, empowering women through her inspiring
11 lyrics and through her community involvement; and

12 WHEREAS, A positive role model for Hispanic youth and women
13 from all walks of life, Selena gave many young people hope and
14 encouragement to persevere and to follow their dreams as she did,
15 and she used her success to encourage students to complete their
16 education, to stay away from drugs, and to make healthy choices
17 through her support of and involvement with many worthy
18 organizations and events, including local schools, the DARE
19 program, the Stay in School Jamboree, and the Coastal Bend AIDS
20 Foundation, to name but a few; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1994, Selena was awarded a Grammy for the year's
22 best Mexican American album, *Selena Live*, and went on to sweep the
23 year's Tejano Music Awards, winning the best album, recording,
24 female vocalist, female entertainer, and Tejano crossover
25 categories; and

26 WHEREAS, She was nominated for a Grammy again the following
27 year for the quadruple-platinum *Amor Prohibido*, which produced

1 three chart-topping singles and sold more than 400,000 copies in
2 the United States alone; and

3 WHEREAS, A young woman of tremendous charisma and talent, she
4 became the first female crossover Latin artist signed to the SBK
5 sister label to the EMI Latin recording company and, at the time of
6 her death, was recording her first album in English; that record was
7 widely expected to establish Selena as a crossover star in the
8 broader reaches of the pop music world; and

9 WHEREAS, Though she had attained fame and fortune as an
10 entertainer, Selena remained true to her roots and shared her
11 culture's long-standing devotion to family, keeping her music a
12 family affair with her husband, Chris Pérez, backing her on guitar,
13 her sister, Suzette Quintanilla Arriaga, serving as her band's
14 drummer, and her brother, A. B. "Abe" Quintanilla III, assisting as
15 her producer, bassist, and cowriter; and

16 WHEREAS, The tragedy of her death in 1995 was so deeply felt
17 by the Hispanic community that the *People* magazine issue in honor of
18 Selena sold a record number of copies and ultimately spurred the
19 creation of the popular *People En Español*; and

20 WHEREAS, After Selena's passing, her life inspired a hit
21 movie, a stage musical, and a successful clothing line, and the
22 soaring popularity of her music resulted in *Billboard* naming her
23 "Best Selling Latin Artist of the Decade" for the 1990s with 18
24 million albums sold; and

25 WHEREAS, Though her life was cut tragically short, Selena
26 Quintanilla Pérez left an indelible mark on this world through her
27 vast achievements as a performer of Tejano music, and it is fitting

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1 that she be remembered on the anniversary of her birth, for her
2 music continues to touch the lives of people the world over; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Selena Quintanilla
6 Pérez on April 16, 2015, the 44th anniversary of her birth.