

By: Hernandez

H.R. No. 2783

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Tatcho Mindiola Jr. is retiring as director of
2 the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of
3 Houston on August 31, 2015, concluding a distinguished 35-year
4 tenure at the helm of this notable program; and

5 WHEREAS, Since his appointment as director in 1980,
6 Dr. Mindiola has led the center with exceptional skill and
7 dedication, and today, it is recognized as one of the nation's
8 premier academic programs of its kind; during his tenure,
9 Dr. Mindiola has overseen the development of a graduate fellowship,
10 a visiting scholars program, and a minor in Mexican American
11 Studies; and

12 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Mindiola's guidance, moreover, the center
13 has played an important role in increasing the number of Mexican
14 American students and faculty on campus; in addition, the center
15 has furthered the evolution of the discipline through its
16 publication of monographs and its sponsorship of research,
17 conferences, lectures, and student leadership retreats; and

18 WHEREAS, An associate professor of sociology, Dr. Mindiola
19 has focused his own scholarly endeavors on race relations,
20 political sociology, and the Mexican American experience as
21 depicted in film; his most recent research examines race talk, the
22 experiences of Mexican Americans in public schools, and the
23 relationship between Mexican Americans and African Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Mindiola was born and raised in Houston;

1 following a stint in the United States Army after high school, he
2 earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree at the University of
3 Houston; while a graduate student at UH, he helped found the
4 university's first Mexican American student organization, which
5 advocated for the expansion of culturally relevant course offerings
6 and for the hiring of more Mexican American faculty, and he
7 continued his activism during his doctoral studies at Brown
8 University; in 1974, he returned to UH to accept a joint appointment
9 in sociology and Mexican American studies; and

10 WHEREAS, Through his vision, scholarship, and commitment to
11 excellence, Dr. Tatcho Mindiola has enhanced the reputation of the
12 University of Houston and contributed immeasurably to the
13 advancement of his field, and he may take justifiable pride in a
14 career well spent; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Tatcho Mindiola on his
17 retirement from the University of Houston and extend to him sincere
18 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Dr. Mindiola as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.