

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

In Memory
of
Moses Steve Vasquez

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Austin in mourning the loss of noted musician and restaurateur Moses Steve Vasquez, who died August 13, 2014, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Moses Vasquez was born September 2, 1923, in Austin, where he attended public schools; he was married to his beloved wife, the late Carmen Villasana, for 60 years; they raised five children together and were blessed with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez and his wife established the original Tamale House on Congress Avenue in 1959, financing it with the proceeds he had earned touring as a vocalist and drummer with Beto Villa, who was known as the Polka King; the business, which sold what many considered to be the best tamales in Austin, thrived until 1984, when he sold the small lot it occupied to make way for downtown development; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez continued to pursue a thriving career as a musician while operating the Tamale House and several night clubs; in addition to his work with Beto Villa, he appeared with such eminent acts as Juan Coronado, Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution, and Shorty and the Corvettes; he was a regular performer at the famed Broken Spoke, where he sang country and western music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez was honored with a 2006 Alma Award for a lifetime of musical achievement; he was known for his willingness

to support up-and-coming bands and for hosting at his clubs a series of concerts that featured Tejano superstar Selena; through his determination and passion he played a vital role in the growth and popularity of Mexican country music; and

WHEREAS, A man of courage, strength, and compassion, he gave unselfishly to others, and his wisdom, his generous spirit, and his enthusiasm for living each day to the fullest will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Moses Steve Vasquez; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Moses Vasquez.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 2, 2015, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate