

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 136

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Matilde Zambrano, a valued employee of the historic
2 Wilson Plaza in Corpus Christi, has earned the appreciation and
3 esteem of many members of her community over the course of her long
4 career at a South Texas landmark; and

5 WHEREAS, Wilson Plaza had its origins in 1927 as the Nixon
6 Building, the first skyscraper to be erected in Corpus Christi;
7 that structure was expanded in 1935 with the addition of the "Cotton
8 Exchange" annex; in 1947, the complex was purchased by oil and real
9 estate financier Sam E. Wilson, and in 1951, he added a 17-story
10 office tower with a four-story luxury penthouse, where he lived
11 with his wife, Ada; until Mrs. Wilson died in 1977, the tower was
12 the center of Corpus Christi's social scene; and

13 WHEREAS, Matilde Zambrano is the daughter of Estanislao
14 Valdez and Martha Valdez Pinones; her sister, Geneva, was the first
15 member of the family to work at Wilson Plaza, and when Geneva moved
16 to California in the late 1950s, Mrs. Zambrano took over her job as
17 an elevator operator; "Tillie" Zambrano came to be known as "Lucky"
18 by the other operators, because Mrs. Wilson herself often asked her
19 to run the elevator for the penthouse meetings of the Ladies' Club
20 and then had her driven home by the Wilsons' chauffeur; and

21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Zambrano's other sister, Cruz Pantoja, joined
22 her as an elevator operator at Wilson Plaza in 1966, and apart from
23 a four-year period, they have worked together ever since; the
24 manually operated elevators were replaced with automatic models in

1 1995, but the two sisters were held in such high regard by the
2 building's tenants and management that they were asked to stay on;
3 today, Mrs. Zambrano represents the plaza as an official greeter
4 and concierge; and

5 WHEREAS, Tillie Zambrano and her husband, Edward Zambrano,
6 shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 39 years, until his
7 passing in 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, For some six decades, this dedicated, hardworking
9 woman has assisted the tenants of, and countless visitors to,
10 Wilson Plaza, and through her warmth and friendliness, she has
11 brightened the day of all whom she has greeted; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Matilde Zambrano
15 for her many years of service at Wilson Plaza and extend to her
16 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mrs. Zambrano as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.