

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 137

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Cruz Pantoja, 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, Cruz Pantoja is the daughter of Estanislao Valdez  
14 and Martha Valdez Pinones; her sister, Geneva, was the first member  
15 of the family to work at Wilson Plaza, and when Geneva moved to  
16 California in the late 1950s, their other sister, Matilde Zambrano,  
17 took over her job as an elevator operator; and

18           WHEREAS, Mrs. Pantoja joined her sister as an elevator  
19 operator at Wilson Plaza in 1966, and apart from a four-year period  
20 when she was raising her two sons, Christopher and Juan, she has  
21 worked there ever since; the manually operated elevators were  
22 replaced with automatic models in 1995, but the two sisters were  
23 held in such high regard by the building's tenants and management  
24 that they were asked to stay on; today, Mrs. Pantoja represents the

1 plaza as an official greeter and concierge; and

2 WHEREAS, Cruz Pantoja is the wife of the late Juan Jose  
3 Pantoja; in addition to her two sons, Mrs. Pantoja has been blessed  
4 with a grandson, Joseph; and

5 WHEREAS, For more than five decades, this dedicated,  
6 hardworking woman has assisted the tenants of, and countless  
7 visitors to, Wilson Plaza, and through her warmth and friendliness,  
8 she has brightened the day of all whom she has greeted; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
11 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Cruz Pantoja for  
12 her many years of service at Wilson Plaza and extend to her sincere  
13 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for Mrs. Pantoja as an expression of high regard by the  
16 Texas House of Representatives.