

By: Alonzo

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R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A Texas star was forever dimmed with the tragic
2 passing of the internationally acclaimed queen of Tejano music,
3 Selena Quintanilla Pérez, on March 31, 1995, and the solemn
4 anniversary of her death offers an opportunity to reflect on the
5 career and artistry of this singular entertainer; and

6 WHEREAS, The daughter of Abraham and Marcella Quintanilla,
7 the former Selena Quintanilla was born in Lake Jackson in 1971; she
8 demonstrated exceptional talent as a young child and soon began
9 performing with her father's group, Los Dinos, which also featured
10 her brother, A. B., and her sister, Suzette; after becoming the lead
11 singer, she took the band to a new level, and in 1987, the
12 charismatic teenager was named Performer of the Year and Female
13 Vocalist of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards; and

14 WHEREAS, Selena brought a joyous, youthful flamboyance to the
15 stage, and she deftly blended traditional Tejano music with
16 elements of other Latin genres and mainstream pop, creating
17 cross-generational appeal; EMI Latin signed her to a major
18 recording contract in 1989, and her career began to take off with
19 the release of a compilation album, *Personal Best*, and then *Ven
20 Conmigo*, whose title track became the first Tejano record to go
21 gold; finding happiness as well as success through music, she
22 married the guitarist of Los Dinos, Chris Pérez, in 1992; and

23 WHEREAS, Two years later, *Selena Live* earned the singer her
24 first Grammy Award, for Best Mexican American Performance; her 1994

1 album, *Amor Prohibido*, received a Grammy nomination, won the Tejano
2 Music Award for Album of the Year--Orchestra, and in 2015 was listed
3 by *Billboard* magazine as one of the Essential Latin Albums of the
4 Past 50 Years; to date, *Amor Prohibido* has sold 2.5 million copies;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Selena's fame continued to grow as she toured the
7 United States, Mexico, and other Latin American countries; she drew
8 more than 60,000 people to her performance at the 1995 Houston
9 Livestock Show and Rodeo, the highest attendance for a lineup that
10 featured some of the top country stars of the day; while gaining
11 greater recognition as an artist, she also launched a clothing
12 business and a boutique, and she made time to assist charitable
13 groups and youth initiatives, among them D.A.R.E., the Texas
14 Prevention Partnership, the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, and the
15 Houston Area Women's Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Poised for mainstream success, Selena was working on
17 her English-language debut when she was slain on March 31, 1995, at
18 the age of 23; the tragedy resonated so widely in the Hispanic
19 community and beyond that the *New York Times* carried the news on its
20 front page and *People* magazine published a special commemorative
21 issue; when her record company released a posthumous bilingual
22 collection of old and new material, *Dreaming of You*, it sold 175,000
23 copies the first day, soared to the top of the *Billboard* 200 chart,
24 and then held the number one spot on the Top Latin Albums chart for
25 44 consecutive weeks; her story was told in a hit movie, a stage
26 musical, and numerous books; in 2011, the U.S. Postal Service
27 issued a memorial stamp; more than two decades after her death, she

1 has remained a cultural icon, and the MAC cosmetics line created in
2 tribute to her signature style sold out completely the day it
3 launched in 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Though her life was cut tragically short, Selena
5 Quintanilla Pérez left an indelible mark on the world through her
6 vast achievements as a musical performer, and she continues to be
7 fondly remembered and deeply missed by the adoring family, friends,
8 and fans she left behind; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Selena Quintanilla
11 Pérez on March 31, 2017, the 22nd anniversary of her death.