

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1027

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Sisters Matilde Zambrano and Cruz Pantoja, valued  
2 employees of the historic Wilson Plaza in Corpus Christi, have  
3 earned the appreciation and esteem of many members of their  
4 community over the course of their long careers at a South Texas  
5 landmark; and

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

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

23           WHEREAS, Mrs. Pantoja joined her sister as an elevator  
24 operator at Wilson Plaza in 1966, and apart from a four-year period

1 when she was raising her two sons, Christopher and Juan, she has  
2 worked there ever since; the manually operated elevators were  
3 replaced with automatic models in 1995, but the two sisters were  
4 held in such high regard by the building's tenants and management  
5 that they were asked to stay on; today, Mrs. Zambrano and  
6 Mrs. Pantoja each represent the plaza as an official greeter and  
7 concierge; and

8 WHEREAS, Tillie Zambrano and her husband, Edward Zambrano,  
9 were married for more than 20 years, until his passing, and Cruz  
10 Pantoja is the wife of the late Juan Jose Pantoja; in addition to  
11 her two sons, Mrs. Pantoja has been blessed with a grandson,  
12 Joseph; and

13 WHEREAS, For some five and six decades, these two dedicated,  
14 hardworking sisters have assisted the tenants of, and countless  
15 visitors to, the Wilson Plaza, and through their warmth and  
16 friendliness, they have brightened the day of all they have  
17 greeted; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby commend Matilde Zambrano and Cruz Pantoja for  
20 their many years of service at the Wilson Plaza and extend to them  
21 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
23 for Mrs. Zambrano and Mrs. Pantoja as an expression of high regard  
24 by the Texas House of Representatives.