

By: Bernal

H.R. No. 1504

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Henry "Pepsi" Peña, a beloved stalwart of the San
2 Antonio music scene, marked his 70th birthday on April 25, 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, The son of Enrique and Elva Peña, Henry Peña was born
4 in Kingsville in 1947; he started a band, Henry and the Kasuals,
5 when he was a sophomore at South San Antonio High School, and the
6 following year, KUKA Radio hired him as a disc jockey for the *Top*
7 *Teen Tunes* show; following graduation, he married his high school
8 sweetheart, Brenda, and they became the parents of three treasured
9 children, Derek, Amanda, and Dion; with the passing years, his
10 family has grown to include five grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Peña worked full-time for KUKA, adding a morning
12 drive program and ad sales to his responsibilities; he also played
13 in the Patio Andaluz and other clubs with his band and emceed dances
14 at the convention center and the municipal auditorium; from 1967 to
15 1968, he served in the United States Air Force; he subsequently
16 hosted an *American Bandstand*-style program, *The Pepsi Peña Show*, on
17 television station KWEX, as well as a TV talk show, *Henry Peña y las*
18 *Estrellas*, for the Houston market; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1978, Mr. Peña pursued a second career in real
20 estate, and he established his own company, Henry Peña Realtors; to
21 the delight of his fans, he eventually found his way back to the
22 music business, emceeding a Patio Andaluz reunion in 2010; five
23 years later, he returned to radio as host of the *San Antonio Oldies*
24 radio show on KEDA, which is also syndicated to 11 other stations;

1 he has produced two more Patio Andaluz reunions at the Tobin Center
2 to showcase local bands and highlight San Antonio music of
3 the '50s, '60s, and early '70s, and he has booked concerts by such
4 national artists as Jimmy Charles and Archie Bell; in 2016, he was
5 inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame; and

6 WHEREAS, Pepsi Peña has enriched the lives of innumerable
7 people by sharing his love and deep knowledge of the classic
8 Westside Sound, and it is a pleasure to join his loved ones and his
9 many admirers in honoring him as he celebrates this milestone in his
10 life; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Henry "Pepsi" Peña on his 70th
13 birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
14 success and happiness; and, be it further

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