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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 32

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Melenie Lissette Gonzalez of Rio Grande City won the conjunto category at the 12th annual Texas Folklife Big Squeeze Accordion Contest finals at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin on April 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Since 2007, the Big Squeeze competition has highlighted talented young musicians from across the Lone Star State who perform various genres of traditional accordion music, including Tejano, Creole, Cajun, and polka; Ms. Gonzalez was the first teenage girl from the Rio Grande Valley to take top honors in the conjunto category for players ages 17 and under; and

WHEREAS, Melenie Gonzalez grew up listening to conjunto, but it is her older sister, Carmen, a mariachi violinist, whom she credits with firing her love of music; she took up the accordion when she was 14 and studied with Jesus Lozano and Jaime Lozano, becoming a valued member of Roma High School's conjunto ensemble, Los Cardenales; for her award-winning performance in Austin, she played the classic "Polka Idalia" and a huapango, "Picame Tarantula"; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding young Texan has proven herself to possess both exceptional talent and a passion for her craft, and she may indeed look forward to a future bright with promise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Melenie Lissette Gonzalez on winning the conjunto grand prize at the 2018 Big Squeeze Accordion Contest finals and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Gonzalez as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.