H.R. No. 982

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Tejano legend Little Joe Hernández, the leader of the enduringly popular Little Joe y La Familia, has been named the 2019 Texas State Musician in recognition of his outstanding achievements; and

WHEREAS, Born in Temple in 1940, José María de León Hernández was a teenager when he started singing and playing guitar in his cousin's band, David Coronado and the Latinaires; Little Joe took on leadership of the group in about 1959, and the band recorded songs for several Tejano labels as well as for Buena Suerte, Good Luck, and Leona Records, each launched by Mr. Hernández; in the mid-1960s, they released their first albums, *Por un Amor* and *Amor Bonito*, and the group evolved into one of the top Tejano *orquestas*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hernández was inspired by César Chávez and the Chicano movement while performing in California, and he changed the band's name to Little Joe y La Familia to reflect his growing dedication to the cultural and political advancement of his community; the group became the leading band of Tejano's *Onda Chicana*, or Chicano Wave, with a lineup that included some of the top musicians in the genre; in 1972, *Para La Gente* showcased its lush arrangements and organic synthesis of ranchero and jaitón, and the album yielded many hit songs, among them "Qué Culpa Tengo," "La Traicionera," and especially "Las Nubes," a prime example of *Onda Chicana* code-switching between Spanish and English; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, both the Smithsonian Institute and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts have featured Little Joe y La Familia during National Hispanic Heritage Week; the band has won many significant honors, including Grammy Awards for the Best Mexican-American Album in 1991 and Tejano Album of the Year in 2008 and 2011; in 1997, the Texas branch of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences presented Mr. Hernández with its Governors Award for his contributions to Texas music, and he later received the Smithsonian's Lifetime Legend Award; the City of Temple celebrated Little Joe Day in 2018 and renamed part of Sixth Avenue in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Little Joe Hernández has left a lasting imprint on Texas music over the course of a remarkable career spanning over a half century, and he continues to enrich the cultural scene and delight the myriad fans of La Familia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Little Joe Hernández on his selection as the 2019 Texas State Musician and extend to him sincere best wishes for an enjoyable tenure and continued success; and, be it further

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 982 was adopted by the House on April 12, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House