

By: Shine

H.R. No. 982

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Tejano legend Little Joe Hernández, the leader of
2 the enduringly popular Little Joe y La Familia, has been named the
3 2019 Texas State Musician in recognition of his outstanding
4 achievements; and

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

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

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

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

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

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