

By: Minjarez

H.R. No. 1122

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 2019 marks the 11th anniversary of the death
2 of San Antonio restaurateur Viola Barrios, and this occasion
3 provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the life and
4 accomplishments of this beloved woman; and

5 WHEREAS, Viola Barrios was born in Bustamante, Nuevo León,
6 Mexico, to Alfredo and Evangelina Botello, and she grew up with the
7 companionship of four sisters, Connie, Mary, Gloria, and Irma;
8 after moving to the United States in her early 20s, she settled in
9 San Antonio and married the love of her life, Jose C. Barrios; the
10 couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned almost two decades
11 before Mr. Barrios was killed in an automobile accident in 1975;
12 Mrs. Barrios suddenly found herself a single parent of three
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1979, with only \$3,000 and a passion for cooking,
15 Ms. Barrios opened the original Los Barrios Restaurant in an old
16 boat garage downtown; for nearly 30 years, she worked seven days a
17 week cooking, cleaning, prepping food, bussing tables, and doing
18 any other job necessary to help the business survive and grow;
19 through her hard work, Los Barrios prospered, expanding to a second
20 location and earning national acclaim by being featured in numerous
21 publications and television programs; and

22 WHEREAS, A San Antonio legend, Ms. Barrios was renowned for
23 her generosity; she lent a helping hand to those in need and
24 returned to Mexico annually to assist the residents of her

1 hometown; following her death, the tradition of selfless service
2 that she began has been carried on by her three children, Teresa
3 Barrios-Ogden, Louis Barrios, and Diana Barrios Treviño, and by her
4 many grandchildren; in 2008, they started the Viola's Huge Heart
5 Foundation to provide scholarships to low-income students; the
6 family has also sponsored dozens of fund-raisers for various
7 nonprofit groups and further honored their matriarch by opening
8 additional businesses, including the Viola's Ventanas restaurant
9 that bears her name; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Viola Barrios set an inspiring
11 example of perseverance, professional achievement, and concern for
12 others, and her memory will long be cherished by residents of the
13 San Antonio area; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the legacy of Viola Barrios and
16 honor her many contributions to her community; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for her family as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.