

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 609

In Memory
of
Viola Barrios

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

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

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

WHEREAS, A San Antonio legend, Ms. Barrios was renowned for her generosity; she lent a helping hand to those in need and returned to Mexico annually to assist the residents of her hometown; following her death, the tradition of selfless service that she began has been carried on by her three children, Teresa Barrios-Ogden, Louis Barrios, and Diana Barrios Treviño, and by her many grandchildren; in 2008, they started the Viola's Huge Heart Foundation to provide scholarships to low-income students; the family has also sponsored dozens of fund-raisers for various nonprofit groups and further honored their matriarch by opening additional businesses, including the Viola's Ventanas restaurant that bears her name; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the legacy of Viola Barrios and honor her many contributions to her community; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Menéndez, Campbell,
Flores, Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 24, 2019, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate