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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 42

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Family, friends, and fans of Tejano music are mourning the loss of Noé Nieto Jr., longtime member of Los Kumbia Kings and Los Kumbia Kings All Starz, who passed away on September 11, 2021, at the age of 46; and

WHEREAS, A native of Columbus, Georgia, "Gipper" Nieto was born on December 29, 1974, to Noé Nieto Sr. and Maria Del Rosario Olivarez-Dieckhoff; he moved frequently with his military family, and his interest in music was awakened at age 13, when he joined the band program at his school in Puerto Rico and successfully taught himself to play every brass instrument that was available; from there, he learned to play the piano, which then led to his discovery of his favorite instrument, the accordion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nieto made his home in San Perlita, Texas, and he began his career as a professional musician playing alongside his friends in a band called Gananzia; he subsequently started another band, Los Impalas, that was signed by Abraham Quintanilla under the Q Productions label in 1999, and soon thereafter he was invited to join Los Kumbia Kings, the Latin Grammy-winning ensemble from Corpus Christi that performed songs blending Mexican cumbia, hip hop, and R&B; and

WHEREAS, With Los Kumbia Kings, Mr. Nieto played to sold-out venues across North, Central, and South America; he continued as a member of later iterations of the band, AB Quintanilla y los Kumbia Kings and Los Kumbia Kings All Starz, and in 2011, he showcased his musicianship on his solo album, *Noé*, in which he sang and played every instrument; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nieto was most proud of his collaborations with some of his music idols, who included AB Quintanilla III, Carlos Vives, Thalia, Bobby Pulido, Jaime de Anda, Oscar de la Rosa, Jennifer Peña, and numerous others; he had the pleasure of writing, singing, engineering, and producing music alongside many exceptional musicians, some of whom became mentors and close friends to him; in addition, he found great fulfillment in his involvement in an after-school program in San Perlita, which allowed him to share his passion for music with young people; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Nieto enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Kelly Koester-Nieto, and their three children, Christopher, Khloe, and Rocket; and

WHEREAS, Gipper Nieto made a unique contribution to the world of Tejano music and touched the lives of countless people along the way, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Noé "Gipper" Nieto Jr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gipper Nieto.