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H.R. No. 647

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 16, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the
2 birth of the internationally acclaimed queen of Tejano music,
3 Selena Quintanilla Pérez; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Abraham and Marcella Quintanilla,
5 the former Selena Quintanilla was born in Lake Jackson in 1971; she
6 demonstrated exceptional talent as a young child and soon began
7 performing with her father's group, Los Dinos, which also featured
8 her brother, A. B., and her sister, Suzette; after becoming the lead
9 singer, she took the band to a new level, and in 1987, the
10 charismatic teenager was named Performer of the Year and Female
11 Vocalist of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards; and

12 WHEREAS, Selena brought a joyous, youthful flamboyance to the
13 stage, and she deftly blended traditional Tejano music with
14 elements of other Latin genres and mainstream pop, creating
15 cross-generational appeal; EMI Latin signed her to a major
16 recording contract in 1989, and her career began to take off with
17 the release of a compilation album, *Personal Best*, and then *Ven
18 Conmigo*, whose title track became the first Tejano record to go
19 gold; finding happiness as well as success through music, she
20 married the guitarist of Los Dinos, Chris Pérez, in 1992; and

21 WHEREAS, Two years later, *Selena Live* earned the singer her
22 first Grammy Award, for Best Mexican American Performance; her 1994
23 album, *Amor Prohibido*, received a Grammy nomination, won the Tejano
24 Music Award for Album of the Year--Orchestra, and in 2015 was listed

1 by *Billboard* magazine as one of the Essential Latin Albums of the
2 Past 50 Years; to date, *Amor Prohibido* has sold 2.5 million copies;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Selena's fame continued to grow as she toured the
5 United States, Mexico, and other Latin American countries; she drew
6 more than 60,000 people to her performance at the 1995 Houston
7 Livestock Show and Rodeo, the highest attendance for a lineup that
8 featured some of the top country stars of the day; while gaining
9 greater recognition as an artist, she also launched a clothing
10 business and a boutique, and she made time to assist charitable
11 groups and youth initiatives, among them D.A.R.E., the Texas
12 Prevention Partnership, the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, and the
13 Houston Area Women's Center; and

14 WHEREAS, Poised for mainstream success, Selena was working on
15 her English-language debut when she was slain on March 31, 1995, at
16 the age of 23; the tragedy resonated so widely in the Hispanic
17 community and beyond that the *New York Times* carried the news on its
18 front page and *People* magazine published a special commemorative
19 issue; when her record company released a posthumous bilingual
20 collection of old and new material, *Dreaming of You*, it sold 175,000
21 copies the first day, soared to the top of the Billboard 200 chart,
22 and then held the number one spot on the Top Latin Albums chart for
23 44 consecutive weeks; her story was told in a hit movie, a stage
24 musical, and numerous books; in 2011, the U.S. Postal Service
25 issued a memorial stamp, and in 2016, the MAC cosmetics line created
26 in tribute to her signature style sold out completely the day it
27 launched; and

1 WHEREAS, Selena did not live to realize all her dreams, but
2 more than two decades after her death, she continues to inspire
3 others to reach for their own, and she will forever hold a special
4 place in the history of Texas music, as well as in the hearts of
5 those who loved her; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the birth of
8 Selena Quintanilla Pérez.