

By: Morales of Harris

H.R. No. 683

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The businesses along Navigation Boulevard in  
2 Houston have contributed greatly to the vitality of the community,  
3 and they owe much to the legacy of pioneering restaurateur "Mama"  
4 Ninfa Lorenzo; and

5           WHEREAS, Navigation Boulevard runs through the East End, one  
6 of the oldest neighborhoods in Houston, and it was here in 1973 that  
7 Ninfa Lorenzo converted her factory, the Rio Grande Tortilla  
8 Company, into a restaurant, where she introduced the city to tacos  
9 al carbon; immediately popular with local residents, Ninfa's soon  
10 drew such celebrities as future president George H. W. Bush,  
11 musicians George Benson and Reba McEntire, and actors John  
12 Travolta, Rock Hudson, and Ben Vereen; and

13           WHEREAS, Since Ms. Lorenzo passed away in 2001, her legacy  
14 has been carried on by the Mandola and Lorenzo families, and thanks  
15 in part to her inspiration, Navigation Boulevard has become a  
16 destination for fine dining; today, it is home to some of the most  
17 respected restaurants in Harris County, including The Original  
18 Ninfa's, El Tiempo Restaurant and Cantina, Merida, Doña María, and  
19 Villa Arcos, among others; and

20           WHEREAS, In 2013, the East End District opened the Navigation  
21 Esplanade, an award-winning linear park that hosts a year-round  
22 farmers market and serves as the venue for many community festivals  
23 that celebrate the traditions of the neighborhood; in 2021, the  
24 East End Houston Cultural District released a short documentary

1 celebrating the life and works of the "Godmother of Tex-Mex," *Ninfa*  
2 *Laurenzo: An East End Legacy*; and

3 WHEREAS, By carrying on in the spirit of Ninfa Laurenzo, the  
4 entrepreneurs of Navigation Boulevard continue to strengthen the  
5 culture and economy of their unique community, and they may indeed  
6 take great pride in their many achievements and proud heritage;  
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby commend the Navigation Boulevard business  
10 community for its success and pay tribute to the life and legacy of  
11 Ninfa Laurenzo; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for the Navigation Boulevard business community as an  
14 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.