WHEREAS, The city of San Antonio and the State of Texas lost an admired public servant and political activist with the passing of Choco Gonzalez Meza on October 9, 2016, at the age of 64; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Alfonso and Josefa Gonzalez, the former Choco Gonzalez was born in 1952 in Zaragoza, Coahuila, Mexico, and grew up in Eagle Pass; she settled in her adopted hometown of San Antonio in 1971, when she enrolled at St. Mary's University; and

WHEREAS, It was while in college that Ms. Meza first became involved in public policy issues; as a research assistant, she helped draft the 10-1 single member district plan for council representation that was adopted by the city in 1977, and the same year, she was recruited as research director for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project; in 1981, she became the only Hispanic YWCA executive director in the country, and she went on to serve as executive director of the Rockefeller Foundation Project's Partnership for Hope beginning in 1988; four years later, she relocated to the nation's capital and put her skills to work in the federal government, serving as deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental relations and White House liaison for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, After returning to Texas in 1996, Ms. Meza became senior vice president of the San Antonio Housing Authority, and she later held the office of president for the nonprofit organization
American Sunrise, which provides support for at-risk youth and families in San Antonio; she found success in her personal business ventures as well, working as a real estate agent and operating her own company, CGM Consultants; and

WHEREAS, An influential leader in the Democratic Party, Ms. Meza championed voting rights and equal representation causes, and she managed campaigns at the local, state, and national levels; she was chair of the Bexar County Democratic Party, a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee and the Democratic National Committee, and the lead organizer for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign headquarters in San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Meza also cherished her roles as a wife and mother; she and her husband, Daniel Meza, shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 44 years, and she took great pride in her children, Danny Meza and Ivalis Gonzalez, and in her granddaughter, Emma Maria; and

WHEREAS, Choco Gonzalez Meza devoted her life to addressing the vital issues facing our communities, and the positive changes she helped bring about will continue to resonate for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the memory of Choco Gonzalez Meza and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further
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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Choco Gonzalez Meza.

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I certify that H.C.R. No. 80 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 23, 2017.

I certify that H.C.R. No. 80 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on February 28, 2017.

APPROVED: 3-16-17

Date

Governor