

Remarks for Adelante Con Adelfa – by Elisabeth A. Wilson (Jan. 28, 2014)

I am Elisabeth Wilson – President of the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA), which was originally called the Mexican American Bar Association - Dallas, which Adelfa co-founded.

I first met Adelfa several years ago as a law student. The first thing that struck me about her is that she reminded me of my own mother – a Mexican immigrant who came to US in the 1960's with only an elementary school education and speaking almost no English. The way Adelfa wore her jet-black hair pulled back in a low bun, with a large hair clip - the way she dressed - her hands - her facial features – all of it conveyed to me the qualities of my own “mamita.” And it struck me quite powerfully that she was the voice of my mother, the voice of the Mexican community, and the voice of so many who had no voice of their own.

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association – and so many of its members that Adelfa inspired personally – now mourn the loss of this tireless leader. [Acknowledge Board members in attendance]. I believe Adelfa would be very proud of the strong Latinas on our board who do so much to further our causes.

Adelfa was a kind, generous soul who was always willing to give her support to individuals in need. But her legacy is much greater than that. She advocated tirelessly for changes intended to give Hispanics the tools needed to lift ourselves up and succeed; to remove barriers to our success. She laid the foundation for many of us to achieve, and we mourn the loss of a leader, a mentor, and a role model.

The DHBA was honored to present Adelfa with its “La Luz” award in 2010, an award given to those who are trailblazers in lighting the path for Hispanics in the legal profession. The DHBA continues to support causes important to Adelfa. She has left us now, but each of us can honor her every day by remembering and embodying the values for which she stood. Her tireless efforts have laid the foundation for us to continue our mission in her absence.

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association is truly grateful for her leadership and contributions. Her legacy lives on in the efforts of our members and our association.