

By: González of Dallas

H.C.R. No. 64

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, State office buildings should be named after the  
2 most laudable of citizens, but the namesake of the John H. Reagan  
3 State Office Building was a secessionist who ardently promoted  
4 white supremacy throughout his lifetime; and

5           WHEREAS, During the Confederacy, John H. Reagan served in the  
6 cabinet of Jefferson Davis as postmaster general; he later won  
7 election as a United States senator and as railroad commissioner of  
8 Texas, and he used his stature to vigorously champion the myth of  
9 the Lost Cause; a major voice for racist ideology even into the  
10 early 20th century, he proposed legislation to prevent African  
11 Americans from exercising their right to vote, helping to lay the  
12 groundwork for generations of systematic disenfranchisement; and

13           WHEREAS, The building named after John H. Reagan currently  
14 stands as an insult to communities that have suffered under his  
15 legacy of oppression and to the millions of Texans who abhor his  
16 discredited values; to make amends, the state would do well to honor  
17 instead a woman of color who worked tirelessly to break down the  
18 barriers he helped erect; and

19           WHEREAS, Kingsville native Irma Rangel, who attended a  
20 segregated elementary school, became the first Mexican American  
21 woman elected to the Texas Legislature in 1976; dedicated to higher  
22 education and equity for minorities and the impoverished, she  
23 secured passage of numerous bills that expanded access to  
24 advancement, including the legislation that provided funding for

1 the first professional school in South Texas; in appreciation,  
2 Texas A&M University-Kingsville named that school the Irma Rangel  
3 College of Pharmacy; she ably chaired the House Higher Education  
4 Committee from 1995 until 2003, the year she lost her battle with  
5 brain cancer; and

6 WHEREAS, Irma Rangel embodied the highest ideals of the Lone  
7 Star State through her unyielding commitment to equal rights and  
8 opportunity for all Texans, and it would be fitting to remedy an  
9 affront to those ideals by renaming the John H. Reagan Building in  
10 her honor; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to rename the John H.  
13 Reagan State Office Building the Irma Rangel State Office Building;  
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
16 copy of this resolution to the chair and executive director of the  
17 Texas Facilities Commission.