

By: Thimesch

H.R. No. 20

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lavinia Masters is being inducted into the Texas
2 Women's Hall of Fame on November 9, 2023, by Governor Greg Abbott
3 and the Governor's Commission for Women; and

4 WHEREAS, Recognized for her advocacy and community service,
5 Ms. Masters is the namesake of the Lavinia Masters Act; this
6 important legislation requires that law enforcement agencies test
7 evidence collected after sexual assaults in a timely manner and
8 extends the statute of limitations for cases with untested
9 evidence; and

10 WHEREAS, When she was only 13 years old, Ms. Masters
11 experienced the trauma of sexual assault and the further trauma of a
12 dehumanizing and ineffective system of justice for victims; she
13 relied on a foundation of faith and family to gradually heal, and as
14 an adult, she began to use her voice in behalf of other survivors;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2005, Ms. Masters became a leader in the national
17 effort to eliminate the backlog in processing rape kits; at a news
18 conference with the Dallas Police Department, she urged other
19 survivors to come forward and request that their evidence be
20 examined; she testified before the Texas Legislature and the
21 U.S. Congress and spoke to numerous news outlets; recognizing that
22 the issue was international, she even addressed audiences abroad;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Masters joined forces with state legislators in

1 2017 to pursue action on the matter; she served on a sexual assault
2 task force and worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the need for
3 such legislation; when House Bill 8 was passed in 2019, it was
4 fittingly named in her honor; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, as an activist, author, public speaker, and
6 consultant, Ms. Masters encourages others to embrace purposeful
7 living after trauma and speak out; she is also a coach for members
8 of the entertainment industry seeking to remain trauma-informed and
9 survivor-centered; the founder and director of Hope S.A.V.E.S., she
10 has given generously of her time and expertise as a member of many
11 organizations, among them the boards of the Turning Point Rape
12 Crisis Center and the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task
13 Force; and

14 WHEREAS, Lavinia Masters has inspired innumerable people by
15 effecting positive change and empowering them to do likewise, and
16 she is richly deserving of this prestigious accolade; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby congratulate Lavinia
20 Masters on her induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and
21 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success in her
22 endeavors; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Ms. Masters as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.