

By: González of Dallas

H.C.R. No. 19

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Pioneering lawmaker Irma Rangel left an indelible
2 imprint on the State of Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1976, Irma Rangel became the first Mexican
4 American woman elected to the Texas Legislature; she embarked on a
5 mission to dismantle structural inequities and improve the lives of
6 the most vulnerable; during more than a quarter century in office,
7 she secured passage of numerous bills that empowered the
8 disadvantaged, including legislation extending the absentee voting
9 system, creating centers for victims of domestic violence, and
10 providing educational and employment programs to mothers with
11 dependent children; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Rangel worked tirelessly to ensure
13 access to quality instruction at all levels and transformed the
14 state's higher education landscape; as chair of the Higher
15 Education Committee, she expanded opportunities for low-income and
16 minority youth; she was the primary sponsor of the bill that gave
17 high school students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class
18 automatic admission to the state's best public universities;
19 moreover, she was instrumental in providing funding for the first
20 professional school in South Texas; in appreciation, Texas A&M
21 University-Kingsville named that school the Irma Rangel College of
22 Pharmacy; also honoring her legacy are the Irma Lerma Rangel Young
23 Women's Leadership School in Dallas and the Irma Rangel Public
24 Policy Institute at The University of Texas at Austin; and

1 WHEREAS, Born in Kingsville in 1931, Representative Rangel
2 attended a segregated elementary school; she went on to earn a
3 bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M
4 University-Kingsville and taught in Texas, California, and
5 Venezuela for 14 years; determined to make a greater impact, she
6 graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law and became the
7 first Mexican American woman district attorney in Corpus Christi;
8 she returned to Kingsville to open a law practice and became
9 involved in grassroots politics; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Rangel served in the legislature
11 until 2003, when she lost her battle with brain cancer; since then,
12 her enormous contributions have continued to resonate, and the
13 naming of a state building in her honor would be a fitting tribute
14 to a trailblazer who opened avenues of advancement for all Texans;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to name the building
18 being constructed in Phase Two of the Texas Capitol Complex Master
19 Plan at the northwest corner of Congress Avenue and 15th Street the
20 Irma Rangel Building; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
22 copy of this resolution to the chair and executive director of the
23 Texas Facilities Commission.