

By: Hamric

H.R. No. 1194

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, May 15, 2003, would have been the 72nd birthday of  
2 State Representative Irma Rangel, who passed away on March 18,  
3 2003, and this sad occasion provides an ideal moment for her  
4 colleagues to reflect on her contributions to this body and to the  
5 State of Texas; and

6           WHEREAS, A graduate of Texas A&I University and St. Mary's  
7 University, this esteemed woman began her storied tenure in the  
8 Texas House of Representatives in 1977 as the first Mexican  
9 American woman elected to serve in this chamber; and

10           WHEREAS, Representative Rangel's remarkable legacy of public  
11 service spanned more than two decades, and during that period her  
12 enthusiasm, charm, and resiliency were as constant as her belief in  
13 the power of the governmental process to have a positive effect on  
14 people's lives; throughout her years as a house member, she could  
15 always be counted on for a smile or an encouraging comment when it  
16 was most needed and she was accorded by many grateful young members  
17 the unofficial title of "den mother" for her mentoring and support;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, Highly knowledgeable in a variety of areas, she was  
20 particularly effective addressing the complex issue of higher  
21 education, and one of her most important legislative achievements  
22 guaranteed admission to state colleges and universities for all  
23 students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their class; and

24           WHEREAS, Representative Rangel's many accomplishments were

1 recognized with a variety of well-deserved accolades during her  
2 lifetime; an inductee of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994 by  
3 Governor Ann Richards, she was voted Woman of the Year in 1998 by  
4 the Texas Young Democrats, and was selected as Legislator of the  
5 Year in 1997 by the Mexican American Bar Association; and

6 WHEREAS, The profound loss of the dynamic and ebullient  
7 presence of Irma Rangel from this chamber is still deeply felt by  
8 all those who shared her commitment to creating a brighter future  
9 for all Texans, and it is indeed appropriate that we pause on the  
10 date of her birth to again honor her life's achievements; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby honor the memory of our esteemed colleague,  
14 State Representative Irma Rangel.