

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1271

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State was built upon the contributions
2 of pioneering individuals whose visionary leadership and
3 unwavering faith made this state what it is today, and the late
4 Representative Irma Rangel continued this important legacy of
5 achievement through her countless good works and deeds; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Kingsville to humble, hardworking parents,
7 Representative Rangel devoted her life to supporting human rights
8 initiatives and meeting the needs of this state's underrepresented
9 populations; she earned her undergraduate degree in business from
10 Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 1952 and taught school for
11 several years before pursuing a law degree from St. Mary's
12 University School of Law and becoming an assistant district
13 attorney; and

14 WHEREAS, First elected to the house of representatives in
15 1976, Representative Rangel was the fifth most senior member of the
16 house at the time of her passing; during her extraordinary
17 legislative career, this esteemed public servant dedicated herself
18 to promoting the causes of women, the elderly, migrant workers, and
19 victims of abuse; and

20 WHEREAS, Appointed chair of the House Committee on Higher
21 Education in 1995, she served in that role for four consecutive
22 legislative sessions; she was one of the leading proponents of the
23 state's efforts to improve public schools and higher education
24 systems and sponsored the state law requiring Texas colleges and

1 universities to automatically admit high school students who
2 graduate in the top 10 percent of their class; and

3 WHEREAS, Her indomitable will and unbridled determination
4 made her a true pioneer in state government; she was the first
5 Mexican American woman elected to the house of representatives, the
6 first woman elected chair of the Mexican American Legislative
7 Caucus, the first Mexican American to receive the G. J. Sutton Award
8 from the Legislative Black Caucus, and the first Mexican American
9 woman to be appointed chair of a house committee; and

10 WHEREAS, Irma Rangel believed in equality and all the tenets
11 of representative government, and as the face of our state
12 continues to change, it is indeed appropriate that the portraits on
13 the walls of the house chamber include a painting of this
14 unforgettable Texas treasure; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
16 Legislature hereby direct the House Administration Committee to
17 hang a portrait of the Honorable Irma Rangel in a suitable location
18 in the house chamber as a tribute to this remarkable legislative
19 pioneer and public servant; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the house forward an
21 official copy of this resolution to the chairman of the House
22 Administration Committee.