

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 693

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Students from the inaugural class of the Irma Lerma
2 Rangel Young Women's Leadership School are visiting the State
3 Capitol, and their presence in the chamber on this day, March 31,
4 2005, provides a most welcome opportunity to recognize their school
5 as well as its namesake, the Honorable Irma Rangel; and

6 WHEREAS, Opened in the Oak Lawn neighborhood of Dallas in the
7 fall of 2004, the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School
8 is the newest of the Dallas Independent School District's magnet
9 programs; currently serving young women in grades seven and eight,
10 the school will add a grade with each school year until the
11 2008-2009 school year, when students from grades seven through 12
12 will be accommodated; loosely affiliated with the Young Women's
13 Leadership School in Harlem, it is the first all-girls public
14 school in Dallas and part of a move that allows educators to focus
15 on the different ways boys and girls learn; and

16 WHEREAS, Through leadership seminars, weekly advisory
17 meetings, and partnerships with educational and cultural
18 organizations, the Dallas school provides students with a rigorous
19 course of study that prepares them for college and addresses their
20 developmental needs; teachers work with students following a
21 project-oriented curriculum that emphasizes math, science, and
22 technology, but also offers ample learning opportunities in foreign
23 languages and humanities; in addition to providing an excellent
24 academic curriculum, the school encourages students to develop a

1 strong sense of ethics and civic responsibility and to become
2 leaders in their community; and

3 WHEREAS, It is fitting that such an admirable and progressive
4 institution be named for Irma Rangel, who was a trailblazer and one
5 of the leading proponents of the state's efforts to improve public
6 school and higher education systems; Ms. Rangel taught for 14 years
7 in Texas, California, and Venezuela before changing careers and
8 earning a degree at St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio; after
9 working as an assistant district attorney for two years in Corpus
10 Christi, she returned to her hometown of Kingsville in 1973 to open
11 her own law practice; and

12 WHEREAS, When Ms. Rangel won a seat in the house of
13 representatives in 1976, she became the first Hispanic woman
14 elected to the Texas Legislature; she spent more than 26 years in
15 the Texas House and was the fifth most-senior member of this body at
16 the time of her death in 2003; while serving in the house, she
17 sponsored legislation establishing a pharmacy school for Texas A&M
18 University--Kingsville, now known as the Irma Lerma Rangel College
19 of Pharmacy; and

20 WHEREAS, The first Mexican American woman to be appointed
21 chair of a house committee, Representative Rangel was named chair
22 of the House Committee on Higher Education in 1995, and she served
23 in that role for four consecutive legislative sessions; she was
24 also the first woman elected chair of the Mexican American
25 Legislative Caucus and the first Mexican American to receive the
26 G. J. Sutton Award from the Legislative Black Caucus; and

27 WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for the poor, the needy, and

1 the underserved, Irma Rangel was a true Texas pioneer who worked
2 tirelessly to make a college education accessible to all citizens,
3 and it is indeed appropriate that an important part of her legacy
4 lies with the outstanding young women who are attending the school
5 that bears her name; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the rich and accomplished life of
8 the Honorable Irma Rangel and extend to the students of the Irma
9 Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School visiting with us today
10 sincere best wishes for success in their new school and with all
11 their future endeavors; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.