

By: Otto

H.R. No. 859

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For nearly half a century, Meta Garvey Thomas of  
2 Cleveland, Texas, has devoted her professional life to educating  
3 the young people of her community; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Panama, and a longtime resident of  
5 Cleveland, Mrs. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in English from  
6 Bishop College and a master's degree in English from Prairie View  
7 A&M University, and she went on to pursue advanced studies in  
8 Spanish at Sam Houston State University; and

9           WHEREAS, During her 49-year tenure at Cleveland ISD, she has  
10 served with distinction as a member of the faculty at Cleveland High  
11 School and the former Frederick Douglass High School; she has been  
12 the sponsor of the Cleveland High School Chapter of the National  
13 Honor Society, the Spanish Club, and the Senior Class, and was a  
14 student competition advisor for the University Interscholastic  
15 League in Poetry Interpretation; moreover, she has provided adult  
16 education classes in English as a second language to assist  
17 non-English speakers toward educational, social, and career  
18 advancement; and

19           WHEREAS, In addition to her outstanding service as an  
20 instructor and mentor, this esteemed civic leader has served as  
21 mayor pro tem of Cleveland and held three terms on the city council;  
22 she has also lent her time and talents to the Cleveland Library  
23 Board, the City of Cleveland Charter Committee, City Park Board,  
24 Precinct 20 Executive Committee, the Progressive Women's Club, and

1 the American Cancer Society; and

2 WHEREAS, She has awarded 30 college scholarships to deserving  
3 students through the William N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship, a fund  
4 established in 1985 to honor the legacy of her late husband, a  
5 former educator and Cleveland City Council member; and

6 WHEREAS, Respected and admired by her colleagues, Mrs. Thomas  
7 was nominated for the 1995 Texas Excellence Award for Outstanding  
8 High School Teachers, sponsored by The University of Texas  
9 Ex-Students Association, for her exceptional abilities, and she was  
10 recognized in May 2004 as Cleveland ISD Teacher of the Month; and

11 WHEREAS, The passion with which Meta Thomas approaches her  
12 profession is an inspiration to all who know her, and her hard work  
13 and dedication to excellence in education have immeasurably  
14 enriched the lives of countless students, teachers, and parents;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor Meta Garvey Thomas for her decades of  
18 service to the Cleveland Independent School District and extend to  
19 her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Mrs. Thomas as an expression of high regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives.