

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 41

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Katy Independent School District acquired a fine
2 new place of learning with the dedication of Ursula Stephens
3 Elementary School in August 2007, and it is indeed fitting to pay
4 tribute to the opening of this campus and to the distinguished Katy
5 educator for whom it is named; and

6 WHEREAS, Ursula Stephens grew up in the San Antonio area and
7 gained her first experience as a mentor by helping to look after her
8 seven siblings; a native Spanish speaker, she had to work hard to
9 master English for her schoolwork, and she later applied the same
10 dedication to her other studies; she went on to earn bachelor's and
11 master's degrees in education from Our Lady of the Lake University
12 of San Antonio and also holds mid-management certification from the
13 University of Houston; and

14 WHEREAS, Her career as an educator began with the San Antonio
15 ISD in 1966, and she also taught in the Lubbock and Spring Branch
16 public schools; after joining Katy ISD, she proved her exceptional
17 abilities as a classroom teacher at Williamsburg Settlement
18 Elementary before serving as an assistant principal at Sundown
19 Elementary and Nottingham Country Elementary; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1985, Ms. Stephens was promoted to the position
21 of principal at Nottingham and later became the head administrator
22 at Sundown and at McRoberts Elementary; in all of her assignments,
23 this skilled educator worked to instill a passion for learning in
24 each of her students; she garnered a number of awards for her

1 accomplishments, becoming the 1981 Teacher of the Year at Terrace
2 Elementary in Spring Branch and being named the Region IV Regular
3 Educator of the Year in 1996 by the Gulf Coast Administrators of
4 Special Education; in addition, she has been included in *Who's Who*
5 *Among American Teachers and Educators* and is a lifetime member of
6 the Texas Parent Teacher Association; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2000, Ms. Stephens chose to return to the
8 classroom and became a Spanish teacher at Cinco Ranch High School;
9 there, as in her other positions, her imaginative approach to
10 teaching resulted in innovative techniques; students were
11 especially fond of the weekly meetings that took place in a local
12 Mexican restaurant, where they could practice their Spanish skills
13 while sampling the culinary culture of Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, Though Ms. Stephens concluded her career with Katy
15 ISD after an impressive 22-year tenure, she continues to influence
16 aspiring educators as the supervisor for alternative certification
17 interns at Texas A&M University; and

18 WHEREAS, Through more than four decades in the field of
19 education, Ursula Stephens has carried forth her guiding belief
20 that all students are capable of succeeding regardless of
21 circumstance, and this admirable maxim will long inspire the
22 teachers and administrators in the school that bears her name; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
25 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of Ursula Stephens
26 Elementary School in Katy and commend Ms. Stephens for her
27 outstanding service to the teaching profession and to the citizens

1 of Katy; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Ursula Stephens Elementary School as an expression of
4 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.