

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 319

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership
2 School is commemorating in the 2009-2010 school year its sixth year
3 of providing an outstanding education to area youth, and this
4 occasion provides a welcome opportunity to recognize the school as
5 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 a magnet program of the Dallas Independent School District; it is
9 the first all-girls public school in Dallas and part of a move that
10 allows educators to focus on the different ways boys and girls
11 learn; and

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

23 WHEREAS, It is fitting that such an admirable and progressive
24 institution be named for Irma Rangel, who was a trailblazer and one

1 of the leading proponents of the state's efforts to improve public
2 school and higher education systems; Ms. Rangel taught for 14 years
3 in Texas, California, and Venezuela before changing careers and
4 earning a degree at St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio; after
5 working as an assistant district attorney for two years in Corpus
6 Christi, she returned to her hometown of Kingsville in 1973 to open
7 her own law practice; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for the poor, the needy, and
24 the underserved, Irma Rangel was a true Texas pioneer who worked
25 tirelessly to make a college education accessible to all citizens,
26 and it is indeed appropriate that an important part of her legacy
27 lies with the outstanding young women who are attending the school

1 that bears her name; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the rich and accomplished life of
4 the Honorable Irma Rangel and honor the students of the Irma Lerma
5 Rangel Young Women's Leadership School on the sixth anniversary of
6 the opening of the school; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas
9 House of Representatives.