

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After more than three decades of distinguished
2 service to the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District,
3 Gilberto Garza, Jr., is retiring as superintendent at the end of
4 June 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Garza was born and raised in San Isidro and
6 attended the University of Kansas before returning to Texas to earn
7 his bachelor's and master's degrees in education at The University
8 of Texas--Pan American; he began his career as a teacher with the
9 Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District in 1971 and joined
10 Edinburg CISD six years later; he soon embarked on an
11 administrative path and served as the principal of three elementary
12 schools before becoming director of elementary education; and

13 WHEREAS, In August 2006, Mr. Garza became acting
14 superintendent of ECISD, which serves a 945-square-mile area,
15 making it one of the geographically largest school districts in the
16 nation; he was appointed interim superintendent a few months later
17 and superintendent in April 2007; under his leadership, the
18 district has achieved outstanding academic results, and in 2008 the
19 Texas Education Agency designated 12 of its campuses as "exemplary"
20 and 15 as "recognized"; and

21 WHEREAS, The safe schools program directed by Mr. Garza has
22 placed police security officers at every one of the district's 27
23 elementary schools and police security as well as certified police
24 officers at the 5 middle schools and 3 high schools; in addition,

1 Mr. Garza has led an extensive building and renovation program that
2 has included the addition of seven classroom wings, the
3 construction of a multimillion-dollar maintenance and facility
4 complex and an instructional technology complex, and the expansion
5 of a number of elementary school libraries; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite the turbulence in the national economy,
7 ECISD has maintained sound finances, and in May 2008, Mr. Garza was
8 instrumental in gaining community support for a school bond issue
9 of more than \$100 million for the construction of new schools and
10 further renovations, now well under way; and

11 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Garza enjoys the love and
12 support of his wife, Anita Garza, and their children, Gilbert Garza
13 III and Gina Vela; and

14 WHEREAS, known for his fair and down-to-earth management
15 style, Gilberto Garza has demonstrated exemplary leadership and
16 dedication during his tenure as superintendent, and his noteworthy
17 contributions over the course of 38 years in education have greatly
18 benefited the children of the Rio Grande Valley; now, therefore, be
19 it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Gilberto Garza, Jr., on his
22 retirement as superintendent of the Edinburg Consolidated
23 Independent School District and extend to him best wishes for
24 continued happiness as he embarks on a new chapter in his life; and,
25 be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Mr. Garza as an expression of high regard by the Texas

H.R. No. 2417

1 House of Representatives.

Peña

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2417 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House