

By: Pena

H.R. No. 2417

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

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1 House of Representatives.