

By: Gonzales of Hidalgo

H.R. No. 61

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Mariella Gorena is retiring as principal of Wilson  
2 Elementary School in 2011, drawing to a close a notable career in  
3 education that has spanned four decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Gorena began teaching in the McAllen Independent  
5 School District's first kindergarten program, which was held at  
6 First Christian Church; she went on to join the faculty at Thigpen  
7 Elementary, and after 15 years in the classroom, she became a  
8 facilitator, first at Thigpen and later at Zavala, where she became  
9 assistant principal and ultimately principal; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2007, she was named principal of Wilson  
11 Elementary, and during her tenure, she has demonstrated exceptional  
12 leadership and earned the admiration of the school's faculty and  
13 staff; and

14 WHEREAS, Always willing to go above and beyond, Ms. Gorena  
15 reached out to the Boys & Girls Clubs of McAllen and Sylvan Learning  
16 in an effort to improve student test scores; inspired by her idea,  
17 the groups have continued to help young people across the state  
18 through a joint initiative, Texas AIM; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Gorena was inspired to enter the field of  
20 education by her mother, Macaria Gorena, a longtime teacher in  
21 Edinburg whose legacy has been recognized with a school named in her  
22 honor; successful in her own right, Ms. Gorena has earned the  
23 Achievement Award from Delta Kappa Gamma, was named a Notable  
24 Valley Hispanic by The University of Texas-Pan American, and

1 received the 2011 Shining Star of Hidalgo County Award from the  
2 Zonta Club; and

3 WHEREAS, In retirement, she looks forward to traveling,  
4 assisting with area Cub Scout troops, and remaining an active  
5 community volunteer; and

6 WHEREAS, Mariella Gorena has made a positive difference in  
7 the lives of countless students, and she may indeed reflect with  
8 great pride on her many professional accomplishments as she  
9 prepares to embark on the next exciting chapter of her life; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Mariella  
13 Gorena on her retirement as principal of Wilson Elementary School  
14 and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Ms. Gorena as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
18 House of Representatives.