

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 634

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Judge Susan Criss of the 212th Judicial District
2 Court in Galveston is celebrating her 50th birthday on February 23,
3 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Susan Criss earned her bachelor of arts degree in
5 government from The University of Texas at Austin and her juris
6 doctorate from the South Texas College of Law in Houston; she is
7 certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and began
8 practicing criminal law in 1988; and

9 WHEREAS, After serving as a special prosecutor for child and
10 elder abuse and as an assistant criminal district attorney, she
11 became a district judge in 1999; during her tenure of more than a
12 decade presiding over the 212th Judicial District Court, she has
13 toughened restrictions for sex offenders on probation, launched a
14 program that provides Spanish-speaking probationers with written
15 translations of forms, and created the first court website in
16 Galveston County, which includes a "Court Class for Children"
17 section designed for children who may need to serve as witnesses in
18 a trial; and

19 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in 2008, Judge
20 Criss participated in managing emergency orders and reestablishing
21 the county's justice system; she also oversaw the timely handling
22 of more than 4,000 claims arising from a refinery plant explosion
23 that occurred in 2005 in Texas City; and

24 WHEREAS, This esteemed jurist is the founder of three

1 organizations to assist Galveston County residents: the Advocacy
2 Center for Children, the Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force, and the
3 Child Fatality Review Task Force; moreover, she is the chair of the
4 Gulf Coast Center MHMR Jail Diversion Task Force and a member of the
5 National Association of Women Judges and the Texas Bar Foundation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Honored in 2005 by the Fred C. Johnson Foundation
8 with a "People Who Make a Difference" award, Judge Criss has
9 received numerous recognitions for directing the Color of Justice
10 video project, which features minority judges, lawyers, and law
11 students and encourages schoolchildren to pursue careers in law and
12 the judiciary; she has lectured widely on such topics as emergency
13 preparedness, media interaction, and domestic violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Susan Criss has set an outstanding example of
15 hard work, dedication, and concern for others, and those served by
16 the 212th Judicial District Court are indeed fortunate to have the
17 benefit of her knowledge, experience, and leadership; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby honor state district court judge Susan Criss on
21 the occasion of her 50th birthday and extend to her sincere best
22 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Judge Criss as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.