

By: Pena

H.R. No. 2430

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 80th birthday of an esteemed Texan is indeed a
2 special milestone, and Isabel Garza Brown is celebrating this
3 joyous occasion on September 28, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Rio Grande City on September 28, 1931, to
5 Filemon and Guadalupe Garza, the former Isabel Garza is the eldest
6 of eight children; she is a direct descendant of Miguel Saenz, who
7 was granted Porcion 73, Los Saenz (Corrales de Saenz) in Starr
8 County by the King of Spain in 1767; through Mr. Saenz, a true
9 Tejano, she is also descended from El Cid; and

10 WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, the Garza family
11 endured hardship but placed a strong emphasis on education, and
12 Mrs. Brown graduated fourth in her class at Rio Grande City High
13 School in 1949; she completed her bachelor's degree in elementary
14 education at Texas A&I University in 1952, and as the first college
15 graduate in her family, she set an example of academic achievement
16 for her children and grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, Through the influence of Florence J. Scott, a former
18 Roma school superintendent and renowned South Texas historian, Mrs.
19 Brown developed a great love for the art and discipline of teaching;
20 early in her career, she taught in rural Escobares and Rosita in
21 Starr County, where schools of two or three rooms had few, if any,
22 supplies and used wood-burning heaters in winter; she recognized
23 children's deep and innate desire to learn and dedicated herself to
24 their instruction; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Brown espoused a firm belief in the value of a
2 quality education for all youngsters from kindergarten through high
3 school, and she emphasized the importance of college, especially
4 for Hispanics; over the course of a 40-year teaching career, she
5 contributed to the academic progress of thousands of children in
6 the Rio Grande Valley; she served in the Hidalgo Independent School
7 District for 35 years before her retirement in 1992; and

8 WHEREAS, After concluding her career, Mrs. Brown engaged in
9 exhaustive genealogical research and authored the definitive book
10 on her family, *Descendents of Miguel Saenz, Garza Family Lineage*;
11 this book has been widely distributed and relied upon by
12 genealogical scholars, as it completes the only *porcion* information
13 missing from the respected 1905 study authored by the Honorable
14 Francis W. Seabury, speaker of the House of Representatives of the
15 29th Texas Legislature; and

16 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan continues her noteworthy
17 endeavors with the loving support of her husband, James T. Brown,
18 her four daughters, Brenda Brown Perez Schell, and Linda, Sharon,
19 and Elizabeth Brown; and her grandchildren, Sofia Vestweber,
20 Medardo Perez III, Patricia Theodora Perez, Hannah and Joshua
21 Flicker, and Claudia, Gabriela, and Max Cortez; and

22 WHEREAS, Isabel Garza Brown has traveled a long and arduous
23 path from her humble beginnings in Starr County, distinguishing
24 herself along the way as an educator, author, and genealogical
25 scholar; a role model to members of her family and her community,
26 she continues to inspire others through her example of wisdom,
27 honesty, hard work, thrift, perseverance, and commitment to

1 excellence; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature hereby congratulate Isabel Garza Brown on the occasion
4 of her 80th birthday and commend her for her many remarkable
5 accomplishments; and, be it further

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