

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 970

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas takes great pride in recognizing Olga Ramirez Gallegos, who is receiving an honorary degree from Houston Community College for her legacy of exceptional service to her community, state, and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, A native of Houston, Mrs. Gallegos was born into a family of community activists; her father played an important role in the Hispanic community of the city's East End as cofounder of the first League of United Latin American Citizens chapter in Houston and of the Sociedad Benito Juarez; her husband, the late Mario Gallegos, Sr., was one of the first three Hispanics to serve in the Houston Fire Department, and a Houston elementary school has been named in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Gallegos began her journey as a community activist in the early 1960s when she realized that Hispanics had little input into the decisions that affected the neighborhoods in which they lived, despite constituting a majority of residents in those communities; to address this disparity, she entered the race for precinct judge and, drawing on the efforts of a strong core of grassroots supporters, defeated the longstanding incumbent; and

**WHEREAS**, She was elected to the board of trustees of the Houston Independent School District in 1987 and held numerous offices on the board, including president and secretary; she became the longest-serving Hispanic on the board, with 16 years of exemplary service; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to her service to the public as an elected official, Mrs. Gallegos has played a vital role in the life of her community in many other ways; she is a lifetime member of the Parent-Teacher Association and has worked with countless other organizations, including the Magnolia Park YWCA, the American Legion Post 472 Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Tejano Association for Historical Preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, She has long been a stalwart of the Harris County Democratic Party and has served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention; among her many awards are the Fiestas Patrias Mexican American Recognition Award, the La Campana Award, and the Trailblazer Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Devoted to her family, she has instilled in her children the principle that personal participation is the key to making a difference in the lives of others; her seven children, 14 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren have learned to volunteer and give back to their communities, and her son, State Senator Mario Gallegos, represents the district in which the family was raised; she is truly deserving of special recognition for the profound impact she has had on the lives of countless people; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend Olga Ramirez Gallegos on her many achievements and contributions to her community and extend congratulations to her on being awarded an honorary degree from Houston Community College; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Gallegos

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 12, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate