

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 973

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate is honored to pay tribute to one of its most distinguished members, Judith Zaffirini, on the grand occasion of her 50,000th consecutive vote in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Zaffirini's many attributes have long been appreciated by her colleagues, and today is an occasion to recognize one quality that has consistently stood out during her lengthy and exceptional service in the legislature--her extraordinary work ethic; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Texas Senate since 1987, Senator Zaffirini is the longest-serving woman in the Senate and the second-highest-ranking senator; she is noted for her impeccable attendance and voting records; throughout her years of service, she has worked diligently to alleviate the problems of persons with mental illness and of senior citizens, and as an experienced educator, she has brought her considerable knowledge to bear on countless educational issues; and

WHEREAS, The first Hispanic woman to serve in the Texas Senate, she has represented District 21 with distinction; she is the senior senator for South Texas, Central Texas, and the border region, and she has skillfully represented a constituency of diverse citizenry and multifaceted needs; in 2012, she was reelected in an eighth landslide victory; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure in the Senate, she has served as President Pro Tempore and has been honored as Governor for a Day; she has served as chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services and of the Committee on Higher Education, and she is currently chair of the Committee on Government Organization; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of her career, Senator Zaffirini has sponsored and passed more than 700 bills and was cosponsor of several hundred additional bills; to help others, particularly freshman senators, to master the complexities of the Senate, she writes a Presiding Guide handbook each session that memorializes the procedures and language for passing bills and for presiding over Senate committees; she attributes much of her success in the Texas Senate to lessons learned from the Ursuline nuns, particularly her punctuality and reverence for decorum; and

WHEREAS, She has received more than 670 awards and honors for her legislative, public service, and professional work; she has been named Legislator of the Year by numerous organizations and has four times been named one of the 10 Best Legislators by *Texas Monthly*; she is a Distinguished Alumna of The University of Texas at Austin, where she earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees; she is also an award-winning communications specialist, a public servant who is deeply devoted to her family and to helping the families of Texas, and one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics listed by *Hispanic Business* magazine; and

WHEREAS, A senator whose unquestionable loyalty to the Senate body has earned her the highest regard of those with whom she serves, she is also noted for performing her duties with the utmost faithfulness and trustworthiness on behalf of her constituents, and she has long held not only her constituents' enduring respect but also the esteem of citizens across the state; and

WHEREAS, Senator Zaffirini's 50,000th vote is a milestone in an illustrious career distinguished by exemplary decision-making and statesmanship; her earnest support of causes for the betterment of our state and her highly effective work as a lawmaker are testaments to her high standards, her strong leadership, and her dedication to public service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby pay tribute to Senator Judith Zaffirini for her outstanding career and her exceptional accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of this state and extend to her sincere appreciation for her loyal service in the Senate and congratulations on the casting of her 50,000th consecutive vote in the Senate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of Senator Zaffirini and as an expression of highest esteem from her colleagues in the Texas Senate.

Eltife

Birdwell
Campbell
Carona
Davis
Deuell
Duncan
Ellis
Estes
Fraser
Garcia

Hancock
Hegar
Hinojosa
Huffman
Lucio
Nelson
Nichols
Patrick
Paxton

Rodriguez
Schwertner
Seliger
Taylor
Uresti
Van de Putte
Watson
West
Whitmire
Williams

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate