

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 76

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership
2 School in Dallas is commemorating in 2016-2017 its 13th year of
3 providing an outstanding education to area youth, and this occasion
4 offers a welcome opportunity to recognize the school as well as its
5 namesake, the Honorable Irma Rangel; and

6 WHEREAS, Opened in the Oak Lawn neighborhood in the fall of
7 2004, the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School is a
8 magnet program of the Dallas Independent School District; the first
9 all-girls public school in Dallas, it was established so that
10 teachers could tailor their instruction to the particular ways in
11 which girls learn; and

12 WHEREAS, Through leadership seminars, weekly advisory
13 meetings, and partnerships with educational and cultural
14 organizations, the school provides students with a rigorous
15 college-preparatory course of study; the project-oriented
16 curriculum emphasizes math, science, and technology but also offers
17 ample learning opportunities in foreign languages and humanities;
18 in addition to equipping students with an excellent academic
19 foundation, the school encourages its youth to develop a strong
20 sense of ethics and civic responsibility and to become leaders in
21 their community; and

22 WHEREAS, It is fitting that such an admirable and progressive
23 institution be named for Irma Rangel, a trailblazer who worked
24 tirelessly as a member of the Texas Legislature to improve the

1 state's public school and higher education systems; an educator
2 herself early in her career, Ms. Rangel taught for 14 years in
3 Texas, California, and Venezuela before earning a degree from St.
4 Mary's University School of Law in 1969; after clerking for a
5 federal district judge and serving as an assistant district
6 attorney, she returned to her hometown of Kingsville in 1973 to
7 practice law; and

8 WHEREAS, When Ms. Rangel won a seat in the Texas House of
9 Representatives in 1976, she became the first Hispanic woman
10 elected to the state legislature; elected to 14 consecutive terms,
11 she was the fifth most-senior member of this body at the time of her
12 death in 2003; during her tenure, she sponsored legislation
13 establishing a pharmacy school for Texas A&M
14 University--Kingsville, now known as the Irma Lerma Rangel College
15 of Pharmacy; and

16 WHEREAS, The first Mexican American woman to be appointed
17 chair of a house committee, Representative Rangel was named chair
18 of the House Committee on Higher Education in 1995, and she served
19 in that role for four consecutive legislative sessions; she was
20 also the first woman elected chair of the Mexican American
21 Legislative Caucus and the first Mexican American to receive the
22 G. J. Sutton Award from the Legislative Black Caucus; and

23 WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for the poor, the
24 marginalized, and the underserved, Irma Rangel was a true Texas
25 pioneer who worked tirelessly to make a college education
26 accessible to all citizens, and her life serves as a shining example
27 for the outstanding young women who are attending the school that

1 bears her name; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the accomplished and inspiring
4 life of the Honorable Irma Rangel and commend the students of the
5 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School on the 13th
6 anniversary of the opening of that academy; and, be it further

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