

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Chantal Bencze has taught French at St. Thomas
2 Episcopal School in Houston for 53 years, and it is indeed fitting
3 to recognize her and honor her for her remarkable career; and

4 WHEREAS, A native speaker of French, Mrs. Bencze was hired in
5 1963 by the school's founder, the Reverend T. Robert Ingram; the
6 position has suited her ideally, as she is a strong proponent of a
7 faith-based, classical education, and she enjoys introducing her
8 students to the wonders and complexities of her mother tongue; she
9 ensures that her students are well versed not only in correct
10 grammar but also in good manners; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bencze was born in Limoges, France, in 1934, to
12 Dr. Jean Dufour and Denise Dufour; she grew up as one of 10 children
13 and was educated in parochial schools; during the Nazi occupation,
14 her parents helped their Jewish compatriots, and she and her
15 siblings found small ways to show defiance to enemy soldiers; and

16 WHEREAS, At the age of 19, while on vacation in England, she
17 met an American soldier, Richard Gay, and they married and moved to
18 Miami before settling in Houston; she later married Stephen Bencze;
19 her family has grown through the years to include 6 children, 18
20 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, and she maintains close
21 ties to her many relatives in France; in her free time, she is an
22 avid reader of histories and literary classics; and

23 WHEREAS, Few teachers can claim a career spanning more than a
24 half century, and through her enduring commitment to education,

1 Chantal Bencze continues to make a positive difference in the lives
2 of young Texans; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
4 Legislature hereby honor Chantal Bencze for her 53-year career at
5 St. Thomas Episcopal School and extend to her sincere best wishes
6 for the future; and, be it further

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

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H.R. No. 623

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 623 was adopted by the House on March 2, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House