

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Arnolito F. Benavides is retiring as principal of  
2 Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School in Edinburg on June 16, 2017,  
3 drawing to a close a notable career in education that has spanned  
4 more than half a century; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Benavides graduated from La Joya High School in  
6 1960 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education  
7 from The University of Texas--Pan American and a master's degree in  
8 counseling and guidance from Texas Tech University; after beginning  
9 his career as a teacher in the Edcouch-Elsa Independent School  
10 District, he joined the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School  
11 District in 1971; he subsequently served as director of the UTPA  
12 Head Start Training Center for 12 years before returning to  
13 Edinburg CISD in 1984; and

14           WHEREAS, Over the course of his tenure, Mr. Benavides has  
15 served the district in a variety of positions, including as a  
16 counselor, curriculum specialist, teacher, and tutor; he was named  
17 principal of the Edinburg Alternative Education Academy in 1988 and  
18 appointed to the same role at Robert E. Lee Elementary School in  
19 1992, and he has held his current position since 2004; under his  
20 able leadership, Freddy Gonzalez Elementary has been accorded a  
21 host of honors from such organizations as the Texas Education  
22 Agency, the Texas Business and Education Coalition, and the  
23 National Center for Educational Achievement, among many others; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Benavides has distinguished himself through

1 leadership positions with numerous professional organizations; he  
2 has served as president of the local chapter of the Texas  
3 Association for the Education of Young Children and as a member of  
4 the National Head Start Association board; moreover, he has served  
5 the Edinburg community as a city councilman and as mayor pro tem;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Arnoldo Benavides has made a positive impact in the  
8 lives of countless young Texans throughout his long and commendable  
9 career with Edinburg CISD, and he may reflect with great pride on  
10 his achievements as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his  
11 life; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Arnoldo F. Benavides on his  
14 retirement as principal of Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School and  
15 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Mr. Benavides as an expression of high regard by the  
18 Texas House of Representatives.

Canales

H.R. No. 1942

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1942 was adopted by the House on May 12, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House