

By: Oliveira

H.R. No. 2664

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Martin Peña is retiring as executive director of the  
2 South Texas Association of Schools in June 2017, drawing to a close  
3 an outstanding career in education that has spanned more than half a  
4 century; and

5           WHEREAS, After earning an associate degree from Del Mar  
6 Junior College, Mr. Peña received a bachelor's degree in secondary  
7 education and a master's degree and high school principal  
8 certification from Texas A&I University; he also holds  
9 superintendent certification from Pan American University; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Peña embarked on his career in 1960 as a faculty  
11 member with the Edcouch-Elsa Independent School District, and over  
12 the next seven years, he taught both there and in the Pharr-San  
13 Juan-Alamo ISD; in 1966, he moved into administration in the  
14 Edcouch-Elsa school district, where he served as an assistant  
15 principal, as assistant superintendent, and as director of federal  
16 programs, and between 1971 and 1973, he held the posts of principal,  
17 director of federal programs, and assistant superintendent in  
18 Mercedes ISD; and

19           WHEREAS, After serving as deputy executive director for the  
20 Region One Educational Service Center and as assistant and deputy  
21 superintendent of PSJA ISD, Mr. Peña became superintendent of Point  
22 Isabel ISD in 1976; he took office as superintendent of Los Fresnos  
23 ISD in 1989, and six years later, he returned to his post as  
24 superintendent in Point Isabel; and

1           WHEREAS, Dedicated to the cause of public education, Mr. Peña  
2 played a leading role in the creation of the South Texas Association  
3 of Schools in 1999; for the past 18 years, he has led the  
4 association as executive director, working tirelessly to promote  
5 effective education policy, to advocate for fair and equitable  
6 funding, and to champion the interests of schoolchildren throughout  
7 South Texas and across the Lone Star State; and

8           WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Peña enjoys the love and  
9 support of his wife of 53 years, Lucila Peña, and his life has been  
10 further enriched by his five children, Gabe, Palmira, Mike,  
11 Cecilia, and Robert, and his eight grandchildren; and

12           WHEREAS, Martin Peña's expertise, professionalism, and  
13 unwavering commitment to improving Texas schools have greatly  
14 benefited generations of young people and earned him the respect  
15 and admiration of his fellow educators, and he may indeed reflect  
16 with pride on a career well spent as he embarks upon the next  
17 exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Martin Peña on his retirement as  
20 executive director of the South Texas Association of Schools and  
21 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

22           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Mr. Peña as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
24 House of Representatives.