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By:  Murphy H.R. No. 929

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Lavergne Schwender is retiring as executive director of the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network in May 2021, drawing to a close an exemplary tenure with the network that has spanned nearly four decades; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network is the largest 9-1-1 system in Texas and the second largest in the United States, serving 48 cities in Harris and Fort Bend Counties; in the early 1980s, Lavergne Schwender joined the network as its legal counsel, and since May 2005, she has been its executive director, responsible for administering its overall operations as well as guiding the network through the rapid changes in telecommunications technologies over the past 16 years; under her leadership, the network received the Outstanding 9-1-1 Program Award from the NG9-1-1 Institute in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Schwender has long been a state pioneer in 9-1-1 services; in 1983, she supported legislation that created the Harris County system, which was the model for subsequent 9-1-1 districts, and she has played an equally important role in additional 9-1-1 legislation and amendments, including the passage of the statewide 9-1-1 wireless fee and the creation of tariffs that have helped fund other 9-1-1 systems across the state; she also helped establish the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance; and

WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Ms. Schwender has been a Dominican nun since 1963; she taught at several Catholic schools while earning a master's degree in business administration at The University of Texas, and she went on to receive a law degree from the University of Houston; she was an attorney for 21 years with the Harris County Attorney's Office, where she first became involved with 9-1-1 legislation; and

WHEREAS, Lavergne Schwender's dedication, expertise, and long-term commitment to the mission of the 9-1-1 system have greatly benefited her fellow Texans and earned her the respect and admiration of her peers, and she may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as she embarks on the next exciting chapter of her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Lavergne Schwender on her retirement from the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Schwender as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.