H.R. No. 940

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Honorable Richard C. Vara retired as Harris County justice of the peace for Precinct 6, Place 1, on December 31, 2020, drawing to a close an outstanding career that spanned more than four and a half decades; and

WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Richard Vara became engaged with politics and public service at an early age, and he helped his father campaign for John F. Kennedy; after graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School, he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Houston, where he was active with the Young Democrats, and he went on to attend the South Texas College of Law; in 1972, he was the assistant treasurer of the Harris County Democratic Party and a coordinator for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, and the following year, he was the Hispanic area coordinator for the mayoral campaign of Fred Hofheinz; and

WHEREAS, First elected as Precinct 6, Place 1 justice of the peace in June 1974, Judge Vara was the youngest person at the time to ever be elected to the position; over the course of his exemplary 46-year tenure on the bench, he has been reelected many times, and he has sponsored such innovative programs as Teen Courts, literacy initiatives, and volunteer programs for retired and senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional responsibilities, Judge Vara has been active as a founding member of the Chicano Family Center, the Denver Harbor Senior Citizens, the SFA Alumni Organization, and the Felix and Angela Morales Memorial Foundation, and he has served on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America, the Mexican American Bar Association, the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation, the Cossaboom YMCA, and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Judge Vara has enjoyed the love and support of his children, Ericka Gonzalez, Lenzy Chapa, and Anthony Vara; and

WHEREAS, Richard Vara's dedication, integrity, and commitment to justice have greatly benefited the residents of Harris County and earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Richard C. Vara on his retirement as a Harris County justice of the peace and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Morales of Harris

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 940 was adopted by the House on May 8, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House