87R23999 JGH-D

By:  Morales of Harris H.R. No. 970

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Honorable Esmeralda Peña Garcia retired from the Houston Municipal Court in March 2020, drawing to a close a notable career in public service that spanned more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, After receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Houston in 1974, Ms. Garcia worked for the Abuse Team of Harris County Children's Protective Services; she went on to earn her law degree in 1982 from the University of Houston Law Center, and she was the first Hispanic person to be elected president of the UH Student Bar Association and helped lead the effort to include minority students on the admissions committee; and

WHEREAS, Known to many as "Judge Essie," Ms. Garcia served the City of Houston and the State of Texas for 33 years as a municipal court judge, and her long and tireless service was recognized when October 11, 2016, was declared Judge Esmeralda Peña Garcia Day by the City of Houston; her many other honors include the Women Making History Award from the Harris County Democratic Party, the Distinguished Service Award from the UH Law Center Faculty, and lifetime achievement awards from the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas Foundation and the National Hispanic Professional Organization-Houston; and

WHEREAS, Since her retirement, Judge Garcia has joined the firm of Johnson Garcia LLP, where she is of counsel as a personal injury attorney; and

WHEREAS, Judge Essie Garcia's dedication, integrity, and commitment to justice greatly benefited the citizens of Harris County and earned her the respect and admiration of her peers, and she may indeed reflect with pride on her many years of service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Esmeralda Peña Garcia on her retirement from the Houston Municipal Court 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. Garcia as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.