

By: Howard

H.R. No. 639

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Melba J. T. Vasquez has been honored by the  
2 American Psychological Association with its 2020 Award for  
3 Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology; and

4           WHEREAS, A pioneer for women of color in psychology,  
5 Dr. Vasquez became the first Latina president of APA in 2011;  
6 during her tenure, she targeted issues such as immigration and  
7 educational disparities and focused on eliminating discrimination  
8 and promoting diversity; she has also benefited the association as  
9 a member of the APA Board of Directors and as a multi-term member of  
10 the APA Council of Representatives, in addition to holding dozens  
11 of roles on APA governance boards, committees, and task forces; her  
12 other leadership experience includes serving as president of APA  
13 Divisions 17 and 35 and of the Texas Psychological Association; and

14           WHEREAS, Dr. Vasquez is a cofounder of both APA Division 45:  
15 the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and  
16 Race and the National Multicultural Conference and Summit; through  
17 these endeavors, she has worked to elevate and highlight the  
18 achievements of other psychologists of color, and she has spent her  
19 career mentoring and supporting psychologists from marginalized  
20 communities to take on leadership roles in and outside of APA; and

21           WHEREAS, Over the years, Dr. Vasquez has published  
22 extensively on professional ethics, social justice, ethnic  
23 minority psychology, women's psychology, and other topics; she is  
24 coauthor of such works as *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling*

1 and *How to Survive and Thrive as a Therapist*, and she has written  
2 more than 100 journal articles and book chapters; additionally, she  
3 has served on the editorial boards of 10 journals and has been  
4 invited to be the keynote speaker at many events; she holds a  
5 bachelor's degree from Texas State University and a doctorate in  
6 counseling psychology from The University of Texas at Austin; and

7 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association and the  
8 wider field of psychology have gained immeasurably from the  
9 leadership, dedication, and vision of Dr. Melba Vasquez, and  
10 through her extraordinary efforts to advance equity and  
11 opportunity, she has exemplified the highest standards of service  
12 to her profession; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Melba J. T. Vasquez on her  
15 receipt of the 2020 Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to  
16 Psychology by the American Psychological Association and extend to  
17 her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Dr. Vasquez as an expression of high regard by the  
20 Texas House of Representatives.