

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Richard C. Vara retired as Harris
2 County justice of the peace for Precinct 6, Place 1, on December 31,
3 2020, drawing to a close an outstanding career that spanned more
4 than four and a half decades; and

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

16 WHEREAS, First elected as Precinct 6, Place 1 justice of the
17 peace in June 1974, Judge Vara was the youngest person at the time
18 to ever be elected to the position; over the course of his exemplary
19 46-year tenure on the bench, he has been reelected many times, and
20 he has sponsored such innovative programs as Teen Courts, literacy
21 initiatives, and volunteer programs for retired and senior
22 citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional responsibilities,
24 Judge Vara has been active as a founding member of the Chicano

1 Family Center, the Denver Harbor Senior Citizens, the SFA Alumni
2 Organization, and the Felix and Angela Morales Memorial Foundation,
3 and he has served on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America, the
4 Mexican American Bar Association, the Fifth Ward Community
5 Redevelopment Corporation, the Cossaboom YMCA, and many other
6 organizations; and

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

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

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

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

Morales of Harris

H.R. No. 940

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.

Chief Clerk of the House