

By: Morales of Harris

H.R. No. 940

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.