

By: Morales of Harris

H.R. No. 970

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Esmeralda Peña  
8 Garcia on her retirement from the Houston Municipal Court and  
9 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
10 further

11           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for Ms. Garcia as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
13 House of Representatives.