

By: Morales Shaw

H.R. No. 46

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Senator Judith Zaffirini became the first female
2 dean of the Texas Senate on December 31, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, The first Mexican American woman elected to the
4 chamber and now its first Latina dean, Senator Zaffirini took
5 office in 1987; setting a high standard of productivity, she has
6 cast more than 72,000 consecutive votes and passed nearly 1,400
7 bills, historic records unlikely to be matched by any legislator;
8 her ability to work across the aisle was especially evident during
9 the last five Republican-dominated legislative sessions, during
10 which she has been the highest bill-passer; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Zaffirini has held numerous leadership
12 roles in the Senate, including chair of the Higher Education,
13 Health and Human Services, and Government Organization Committees
14 and vice chair of the Committee on Natural Resources and Economic
15 Development and of Finance; she also was appointed to the special
16 committees on Grid Reliability Legislative Oversight and on
17 Hurricane and Tropical Storm Preparedness, Recovery, and
18 Electricity, and she has chaired the Eagle Ford Shale Legislative
19 Caucus; among many other committees, she has served as a member of
20 Business and Commerce, Finance, State Affairs, and Redistricting;
21 since 2015 she also has served on the Texas Judicial Council and
22 since 2017 in the Texas Access to Justice Commission; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2024 the Webb County Justice Center was renamed
24 the Dean Senator Judith Zaffirini Justice Center, becoming the

1 first local Texas courthouse named for a woman; Senator Zaffirini
2 is the namesake of a number of other public buildings and
3 facilities, as well as grant programs and scholarships at
4 educational institutions across the state; the recipient of more
5 than 1,200 accolades for her legislative, civic, and professional
6 achievements, she most recently garnered such honors as the Star of
7 Justice Award from the Texas Access to Justice Commission, the
8 Orgullo Latino Legacy Award from Webb County LULAC Council No.
9 22387, and the Champion of Medicine Award from the Texas Medical
10 Association Border Health Caucus; she was inducted into the Texas
11 Women's Hall of Fame by Governor Greg Abbott in 2018; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Zaffirini is a former educator, the owner of
13 Zaffirini Communications, and the president of the Mr. South Texas
14 Foundation and the D&J Alexander Foundation; named a Distinguished
15 Alumna of The University of Texas at Austin in 2003, she earned her
16 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the institution;

17 WHEREAS, Above all, she is inspired by her family, namely her
18 husband of 60 years, Carlos Sr.; their son, Carlos Jr., and daughter
19 by marriage, Audrey; and her two darling grandsons, Asher (7) and
20 George (5); and

21 WHEREAS, Over the course of her remarkable legislative
22 career, Judith Zaffirini has made a positive difference in the
23 lives of countless Texans, and she has set an example of effective
24 public service to which all may aspire; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize the Honorable Judith Zaffirini for her
27 contributions as a state legislator and congratulate her on being

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1 named dean of the Texas Senate; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Senator Zaffirini as an expression of high regard by
4 the Texas House of Representatives.