

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 811

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a beloved educator drew to a close with
2 the passing of Yolanda P. Torres of San Antonio on February 24,
3 2025, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Rolando and Bertha Parga, the former
5 Yolanda Parga was born in San Antonio on June 13, 1936; her parents
6 were talented musicians, and she grew up with three siblings, Irma,
7 Roland, and Sylvia, in a household that shaped her love for the
8 arts; she studied the accordion with a classical teacher, and she
9 also played the piano, ukulele, and French horn, the latter as a
10 member of the Thomas Jefferson High School marching band; the first
11 in her family to graduate from college, she earned an English degree
12 at the University of the Incarnate Word and a master's degree in
13 psychology at St. Mary's University; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Torres began her teaching career with the
15 Edgewood Independent School District in 1957; during her years in
16 education, she taught English with a focus on classical literature,
17 and she served as a journalism instructor and school newspaper
18 sponsor at Fox Tech High School in San Antonio, as the yearbook
19 sponsor at Jefferson Davis High School in Houston, and as the
20 literary club sponsor at Thomas Edison High School in San Antonio;
21 in 1976, Ms. Torres became the first Mexican American woman to be
22 elected to the Texas State Board of Education; she was teaching at
23 Edison when she retired in 2000; among her numerous accolades, she
24 received a Making a Mark on the World Award from the San Antonio

1 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and she was inducted into the San
2 Antonio Women's Hall of Fame; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Torres took great pride in her four children,
4 Denise, Peter, Tina, and Paul, and her grandchildren; she always
5 saw the best in others, and she was a talented poet, oil painter,
6 singer, and pianist who served as choir director for La Trinidad
7 United Methodist Church for many years; and

8 WHEREAS, Admired for her myriad accomplishments and her
9 remarkable ability to connect with students, Yolanda Torres
10 brightened the world for all who knew her, and they will forever
11 hold her close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Yolanda P. Torres
14 and extend deepest condolences to the members of her family: to her
15 children, Denise, Peter, Tina, and Paul and his wife, Alisa; to her
16 grandchildren, Tahnee, Peter Michael, and Savannah and her husband,
17 Curtis; to her sister, Sylvia; to her sisters-in-law, Dolores and
18 Sandy; and to her many other relatives and friends; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Yolanda
23 Torres.