

H.R. No. 1125

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, May 15, 2025, marks the 94th anniversary of the
2 birth of the late state representative Irma Rangel; and

3 WHEREAS, The daughter of Herminia Lerma and Preciliano
4 Martinez Rangel, Irma Rangel was born and raised in Kingsville; she
5 earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a
6 teaching certificate from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and
7 taught in California and Venezuela as well as Texas; committed to
8 public service, she went on to graduate from St. Mary's University
9 School of Law and worked as an assistant district attorney in Corpus
10 Christi before opening her own law office in her hometown and
11 becoming involved in grassroots politics; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1976, Representative Rangel became the first
13 Mexican American woman elected to the Texas Legislature; she worked
14 tirelessly over more than a quarter century to break down systemic
15 barriers to the advancement of underrepresented communities; among
16 her many achievements, she secured passage of laws to extend
17 absentee voting, establish support centers for survivors of
18 domestic violence, and create employment and education programs for
19 mothers with dependent children; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Rangel was also instrumental in the
21 radical transformation of higher education and the expansion of
22 access for low-income and minority students; as chair of the Higher
23 Education Committee, she was the primary sponsor of the landmark
24 law guaranteeing that students who graduate in the top 10 percent of

1 their high school class receive automatic admission to the state's
2 top public universities; her efforts were crucial in the funding of
3 South Texas' first professional school, now the Irma Lerma Rangel
4 College of Pharmacy at Texas A&M; other institutions named in her
5 honor include the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School
6 in Dallas and the Irma Rangel Public Policy Institute at The
7 University of Texas at Austin; in addition, the Mexican American
8 Legislative Leadership Foundation recognized her legacy in the
9 establishment of the Moreno/Rangel Legislative Leadership
10 Fellowship; and

11 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to her fellow Texans, the Honorable
12 Irma Rangel served in the legislature until 2003, when she lost her
13 battle with cancer; her trailblazing accomplishments have
14 continued to resonate powerfully, and she remains a source of
15 inspiration to the countless people who have joined in her quest for
16 meaningful change; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 94th anniversary of the birth of
19 former state representative Irma Rangel and encourage all Texans to
20 learn more about her far-reaching contributions to the Lone Star
21 State.

Romero

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1125 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House