

irma rangel great women in history

Irma Rangel: Great Women in History Who Broke Barriers and Inspired Generations

irma rangel great women in history are stories of courage, perseverance, and groundbreaking achievements that continue to inspire people worldwide. Among these remarkable figures, Irma Rangel stands out as a trailblazer in American politics and law, particularly for Hispanic women and communities in Texas. Her legacy is a testament to the power of determination and the importance of representation in government. In this article, we'll explore the life, contributions, and lasting impact of Irma Rangel, highlighting why she is celebrated as one of the great women in history.

The Early Life and Background of Irma Rangel

Understanding the roots of Irma Rangel's journey is key to appreciating her significance. Born in 1931 in Kingsville, Texas, she was raised during a time when opportunities for women, especially Mexican-American women, were limited. Despite these challenges, Rangel's family emphasized education and community involvement, values that shaped her future path.

Rangel's early experiences in a predominantly Hispanic community gave her insight into the struggles faced by minorities in the United States. She pursued higher education, earning a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1957, becoming the first Mexican-American woman to graduate from that institution. This milestone set the stage for her historic career.

Irma Rangel's Political Career: Breaking New Ground

One of the most notable aspects of Irma Rangel's legacy is her groundbreaking role in Texas politics. In 1976, she was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, becoming the first Mexican-American woman to hold that office. This achievement was more than symbolic; it represented a significant shift in representation for Hispanic communities and women in Texas.

Championing Education and Equality

Throughout her tenure, Rangel was a passionate advocate for education reform and equal rights. She understood that education was a critical pathway to empowerment, especially for underserved communities. She sponsored and supported legislation that expanded access to quality education and sought to improve the conditions of schools in low-income areas.

Her efforts also extended to women's rights and minority protections. Rangel worked tirelessly to promote legislation that addressed discrimination and promoted social justice. Her role as a legislator was characterized by a commitment to inclusivity and fairness, helping to pave the way for future generations of women and minorities in politics.

Leadership and Legislative Achievements

Irma Rangel's leadership was evident in her ability to navigate the political landscape and build coalitions. She served multiple terms in the Texas House, where she chaired important committees, including the Higher Education Committee. Under her guidance, many bills aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and civil rights were passed.

Her legislative achievements include:

- Establishing scholarships and programs to support Hispanic students in higher education
- Advocating for healthcare access for underserved populations
- Promoting economic development initiatives in rural and minority communities

Rangel's dedication earned her respect across party lines and made her a role model for aspiring female politicians.

Irma Rangel's Legacy: Impact Beyond Politics

The influence of Irma Rangel extends far beyond her time in office. She opened doors for Hispanic women in law and politics, inspiring countless individuals to pursue careers they might have previously thought inaccessible.

Education and Institutions Named in Her Honor

Several educational institutions and programs have been named after Irma Rangel, recognizing her commitment to learning and empowerment. For example, the Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy at Texas A&M University and the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy highlight her dedication to education and public service.

These institutions not only honor her memory but also continue her mission by fostering diversity and inclusion in professional fields. They serve as living monuments to her impact on Texas and the nation.

Inspiration for Future Generations of Women Leaders

Irma Rangel's story is frequently cited in discussions about women's leadership and minority representation in government. She demonstrated that barriers could be broken with resilience and a clear vision for change.

Her example encourages young women, especially those from Hispanic backgrounds, to engage in civic life and leadership roles. It also underscores the importance of having diverse voices in legislative bodies to address the needs of all communities effectively.

Lessons from Irma Rangel's Life and Career

Reflecting on the life of Irma Rangel offers valuable lessons for anyone interested in social justice, politics, or community advocacy.

Persistence in the Face of Challenges

Rangel's journey was not without obstacles. Being a Mexican-American woman in mid-20th-century Texas meant confronting systemic discrimination and skepticism. Nevertheless, her persistence and unwavering belief in the power of education and public service helped her overcome these barriers.

Anyone looking to make a difference can learn from her example that perseverance is crucial, especially when breaking new ground.

The Power of Representation

Irma Rangel's career highlights the importance of representation in political institutions. When diverse communities have advocates who understand their unique challenges, policies become more inclusive and effective.

Her life encourages political parties and organizations to foster diversity and empower underrepresented groups to take on leadership roles.

Commitment to Community and Education

Rangel's focus on education as a tool for empowerment remains relevant today. Her work shows how investing in education can create ripple effects that improve economic opportunities and social equity.

Advocates and policymakers can draw inspiration from her approach to crafting legislation that directly benefits marginalized populations.

Irma Rangel Among Other Great Women in History

While Irma Rangel's contributions are unique to her context, she shares common threads with other great women in history who challenged norms and expanded opportunities for future generations. Like Rosa Parks, who fought for civil rights, or Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme

Court Justice, Rangel's story is part of a larger narrative about women's rising influence in shaping society.

Her achievements remind us that history is enriched by diverse voices and that progress often depends on the courage of individuals willing to lead.

The story of Irma Rangel is not just a chapter in Texas history; it's an inspiring example of how one woman's dedication can transform communities and pave the way for others. Recognizing her as one of the irma rangel great women in history helps keep her legacy alive, motivating current and future leaders to continue fighting for equality and justice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Irma Rangel?

Irma Rangel was a pioneering American politician and educator, best known as the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

Why is Irma Rangel considered one of the great women in history?

Irma Rangel is considered one of the great women in history due to her groundbreaking role in politics, advocacy for education, and efforts to improve civil rights and opportunities for minorities in Texas.

What were some of Irma Rangel's major accomplishments?

Irma Rangel's major accomplishments include championing legislation for public education funding, supporting women's rights, and helping to create access to higher education for underrepresented communities.

When did Irma Rangel serve in the Texas House of Representatives?

Irma Rangel served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1977 until her death in 2003.

How did Irma Rangel impact education in Texas?

Irma Rangel significantly impacted education in Texas by sponsoring bills that increased funding for public schools and higher education, and by advocating for educational equity and access.

What barriers did Irma Rangel break during her career?

Irma Rangel broke barriers as the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas legislature,

paving the way for greater Latino and female representation in politics.

Is there an institution named after Irma Rangel?

Yes, the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy at Texas A&M University and the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in Dallas are named in her honor.

What inspired Irma Rangel to pursue a career in politics?

Irma Rangel was inspired by her passion for education, social justice, and the desire to represent and advocate for minority communities within Texas.

How does Irma Rangel's legacy influence women today?

Irma Rangel's legacy inspires women today by demonstrating the power of perseverance and leadership in breaking gender and ethnic barriers in politics and education.

What is one key piece of legislation associated with Irma Rangel?

One key piece of legislation associated with Irma Rangel is the bill that established the Texas A&M University Irma Lema Rangel College of Pharmacy, emphasizing her commitment to expanding higher education.

Additional Resources

Irma Rangel: A Pioneering Legacy Among Great Women in History

irma rangel great women in history encapsulates the story of a trailblazer who broke barriers and paved the way for future generations, particularly within the realms of law and politics in Texas. As the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives, Irma Rangel's contributions extend far beyond her legislative achievements; they reflect the broader narrative of diversity, representation, and empowerment among minority women in American history. Examining her life and legacy offers insight into the challenges and triumphs experienced by women who have shaped the political landscape, making her a significant figure among the pantheon of great women in history.

Irma Rangel's Early Life and Path to Leadership

Born in 1931 in Kingsville, Texas, Irma Rangel grew up in a context marked by social and racial obstacles that often limited opportunities for Hispanic Americans and women. Despite these barriers, her determination led her to pursue higher education, earning a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1957. This achievement alone was groundbreaking, considering the gender and ethnic disparities in the legal profession during that era.

Rangel's early career as an attorney focused on advocating for marginalized communities, setting

the stage for her eventual entry into politics. Her experiences navigating a predominantly male and Anglo-centric legal field underscored the need for more inclusive representation. This motivation propelled her to seek public office, where she could influence policies addressing education, civil rights, and social equity.

Political Career and Legislative Impact

Irma Rangel's election to the Texas House of Representatives in 1976 marked a historic moment not only for Texas but also for Mexican-American women nationwide. Serving for nearly three decades, from 1977 until her passing in 2003, Rangel championed legislation that expanded educational opportunities and promoted social justice.

Education Reform and Advocacy

A central pillar of Rangel's legislative agenda was education reform. She understood that access to quality education was crucial for upward mobility, especially in underserved Hispanic communities. One of her notable achievements was the establishment of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus, which provided higher education opportunities in South Texas.

Rangel also played a pivotal role in expanding funding for public schools and advocating for bilingual education programs, which addressed the needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Her efforts aligned with broader educational equity movements, highlighting her commitment to systemic change.

Championing Minority Rights

Throughout her tenure, Rangel was a fierce advocate for civil rights and minority representation. She worked to dismantle discriminatory practices and fought for policies that promoted fair employment, voting rights, and access to healthcare for minority populations. Her work often required navigating complex political dynamics in a state historically resistant to such reforms, underscoring her resilience and strategic acumen.

Irma Rangel's Legacy Among Great Women in History

The significance of Irma Rangel as one of the great women in history lies not only in her personal accomplishments but also in her role as a symbol of progress for Hispanic women and other underrepresented groups. Her trailblazing career helped normalize the presence of women of color in state legislatures and inspired subsequent generations to pursue public service.

Comparisons with Contemporary Women Leaders

When compared to other pioneering women in politics, such as Shirley Chisholm—the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress—Rangel’s journey reflects similar themes of breaking racial and gender barriers while advocating for marginalized communities. Both women faced entrenched opposition yet remained steadfast in their commitment to representation and equity.

Furthermore, Rangel’s focus on education mirrors the efforts of figures like Malala Yousafzai, albeit in different cultural and political contexts, illustrating how education remains a universal priority among female leaders seeking societal transformation.

Ongoing Influence and Recognition

Irma Rangel’s legacy continues through institutions that bear her name, such as the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy at Texas A&M and the Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School in Dallas. These institutions embody her vision of empowering women and minorities through education and leadership development.

Moreover, her story is frequently cited in discussions about the importance of diversity in government and the impact of female legislators on policy outcomes. Research consistently shows that women in politics tend to prioritize social welfare, education, and health—areas that Rangel championed throughout her career.

Contextualizing Irma Rangel Within the Broader Historical Framework

Exploring Irma Rangel’s impact requires situating her within the broader context of women’s political participation in the 20th century. The gradual increase in women’s representation in state legislatures coincided with the civil rights and feminist movements, which challenged systemic inequalities. Rangel’s election was a tangible outcome of these social shifts, but her sustained success also highlighted the ongoing challenges women of color faced in gaining political power.

Her work exemplifies how intersectionality—considering the overlapping identities of gender, ethnicity, and class—plays a critical role in understanding the experiences of minority women leaders. Irma Rangel’s career demonstrates that overcoming one barrier does not eliminate all obstacles, but it can pave the way for collective progress.

Challenges Faced by Women in Politics During Rangel’s Era

During the late 20th century, women like Rangel confronted several persistent challenges, including:

- Gender bias and stereotypes questioning women’s leadership abilities.

- Limited access to political networks traditionally dominated by men.
- Underrepresentation in legislative bodies, which affected policy priorities.
- Balancing cultural expectations and family responsibilities with demanding political roles.

Rangel's success despite these hurdles underscores her exceptional leadership qualities and serves as a case study for the strategies women employed to carve out political space.

Irma Rangel's Enduring Lessons for Future Generations

The story of Irma Rangel remains a vital reference point for understanding the dynamics of political inclusion and the role of women in shaping public policy. Her life encourages reflection on several key themes:

- **The importance of representation:** Diverse voices in government lead to more inclusive and effective policymaking.
- **Education as empowerment:** Access to education lays the foundation for personal and community advancement.
- **Persistence in the face of adversity:** Breaking systemic barriers requires resilience and strategic action.
- **Legacy-building:** Creating institutions and programs that carry forward one's mission amplifies impact across generations.

As contemporary political landscapes continue to evolve, Irma Rangel's example invites ongoing scrutiny of how minority women can be supported and elevated within political systems often resistant to change.

Irma Rangel's place among great women in history is well-earned through her pioneering spirit, legislative accomplishments, and dedication to social justice. Her narrative is essential not only for understanding the progression of women's political empowerment in Texas and the United States but also for appreciating the broader struggles and successes of women of color in leadership roles. By examining her life and influence, scholars, activists, and policymakers gain valuable perspectives on the ongoing pursuit of equity and representation in governance.

Irma Rangel Great Women In History

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irma rangel great women in history: Teaching Text Features to Support Comprehension Michelle Kelley, Nicki Clausen-Grace, 2015-05-26 When K-5 students understand how to read text features like diagrams, bullets, insets, and tables, they are reading the whole page--essential for deep comprehension of nonfiction and fiction text. In this revised edition of *Reading the Whole Page: Teaching and Assessing Text Features to Meet K-5 Common Core Standards*, seasoned educators Michelle Kelley and Nicki Clausen-Grace show you how to explicitly teach K-5 students to read text features, use them to navigate text, and include them in their own writing. The classroom-proven mini-lessons, activities, and assessment tools in *Teaching Text Features to Support Comprehension* help you: teach relevant Common Core State Standards and grade-level expectations; diagnose, monitor, and meet student needs with one of two level-appropriate assessments; evaluate knowledge with a unique picture book that can be downloaded that illustrates all the text features; and monitor and guide differentiated instruction with a convenient class profile. Sixty mini-lessons for teaching print, graphic, and organizational features provide ample choices for meeting the standards while adapting to students' needs. Flexible lessons, which follow the gradual release of responsibility model and increase in difficulty, can be used within the typical 90-minute reading block, during content-area instruction, in small groups, and as part of independent practice opportunities like literacy centers. Each lesson offers concept review, suggestions for differentiation, assessment options, and technology connections, requiring students to find, explore, manipulate, and create text features in their own writing. Even more activities--from text feature walks to scavenger hunts--help students integrate text feature knowledge as they read. The downloadable materials provided online include important resources and convenient lesson supports, such as interactive thinksheets that can be filled out directly on the computer, visual examples of each text feature, rubrics, the assessment picture book, and readers' theatre scripts.

irma rangel great women in history: From Santa Anna to Selena Harriett Denise Joseph, 2018-03-15 Author Harriett Denise Joseph relates biographies of eleven notable Mexicanos and Tejanos, beginning with Santa Anna and the impact his actions had on Texas. She discusses the myriad contributions of Erasmo and Juan Seguín to Texas history, as well as the factors that led a hero of the Texas Revolution (Juan) to be viewed later as a traitor by his fellow Texans. Admired by many but despised by others, folk hero Juan Nepomuceno Cortina is one of the most controversial figures in the history of nineteenth-century South Texas. Preservationist and historian Adina De Zavala fought to save part of the Alamo site and other significant structures. Labor activist Emma Tenayuca's youth, passion, courage, and sacrifice merit attention for her efforts to help the working class. Joseph reveals the individual and collective accomplishments of a powerhouse couple, bilingual educator Edmundo Mireles and folklorist-author Jovita González. She recognizes the military and personal battles of Medal of Honor recipient Raul "Roy" Benavidez. Irma Rangel, the first Latina to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, is known for the many "firsts" she achieved during her lifetime. Finally, we read about Selena's life and career, as well as her tragic death and her continuing marketability.

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irma rangel great women in history: Agent of Change Cynthia E. Orozco, 2020-01-10 The essayist Adela Sloss-Vento (1901-1998) was a powerhouse of activism in South Texas's Lower Rio

Grande Valley throughout the Mexican American civil rights movement beginning in 1920 and the subsequent Chicano movement of the 1960s and 1970s. At last presenting the full story of Sloss-Vento's achievements, *Agent of Change* revives a forgotten history of a major female Latina leader. Bringing to light the economic and political transformations that swept through South Texas in the 1920s as ranching declined and agribusiness proliferated, Cynthia E. Orozco situates Sloss-Vento's early years within the context of the Jim Crow/Juan Crow era. Recounting Sloss-Vento's rise to prominence as a public intellectual, Orozco highlights a partnership with Alonso S. Perales, the principal founder of the League of United Latin American Citizens. *Agent of Change* explores such contradictions as Sloss-Vento's tolerance of LULAC's gender-segregated chapters, even though the activist was an outspoken critic of male privilege in the home and a decidedly progressive wife and mother. Inspiring and illuminating, this is a complete portrait of a savvy, brazen critic who demanded reform on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

irma rangel great women in history: Women across Time / Mujeres a Través del Tiempo

Susan L. Roberson, 2022-11-18 Sixteen South Texas women stand proudly in the public mural *Mujeres a Través del Tiempo* by Arnold Gonzáles Sr. housed on the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. These women are pioneers; they are ranchers, educators, artists, politicians, and community activists; they are general and specific, known and unknown. Inspired by the mural, this study assumes the biographer's task: to fill in the gaps of knowledge between the figures as seen and the lives they lived, with their trials and triumphs. Assembled by editor Susan L. Roberson, this collection features essays on the lives of the women who are depicted in the mural, women who live or lived in the South Texas region between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, particularly Kleberg, Kenedy, and Nueces counties. Situated near the boundary between Mexico and Texas, these women navigated more than geographic borders as they tested their place in economic, political, and artistic arenas long recognized as male domains. Taken together, these biographical sketches contribute to a revision and reimagining of the history of South Texas and provide a corrective to an Anglo-dominated history of the area by showing how Tejanas found places of leadership and creative outlets. By sketching the contributions of female students at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the final essay brings the collection to the present and forecasts a future where opportunities for women extend beyond borders.

irma rangel great women in history: Women in Texas History Angela Boswell, 2018-10-15

Winner, 2019 Liz Carpenter Award, sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) In recent decades, a small but growing number of historians have dedicated their tireless attention to analyzing the role of women in Texas history. Each contribution—and there have been many—represents a brick in the wall of new Texas history. From early Native societies to astronauts, *Women in Texas History* assembles those bricks into a carefully crafted structure as the first book to cover the full scope of Texas women's history. By emphasizing the differences between race and ethnicity, Angela Boswell uses three broad themes to tie together the narrative of women in Texas history. First, the physical and geographic challenges of Texas as a place significantly affected women's lives, from the struggles of isolated frontier farming to the opportunities and problems of increased urbanization. Second, the changing landscape of legal and political power continued to shape women's lives and opportunities, from the ballot box to the courthouse and beyond. Finally, Boswell demonstrates the powerful influence of social and cultural forces on the identity, agency, and everyday life of women in Texas. In challenging male-dominated legal and political systems, Texan women shaped (and were shaped by) class, religion, community organizations, literary and artistic endeavors, and more. *Women in Texas History* is the first book to narrate the entire span of Texas women's history and marks a major achievement in telling the full story of the Lone Star State. Historians and general readers alike will find this book an informative and enjoyable read for anyone interested in the history of Texas or the history of women.

irma rangel great women in history: Rewriting the Chicano Movement Mario T. García,

Ellen McCracken, 2021-03-09 The Chicano Movement, *el movimiento*, is known as the largest and most expansive civil rights and empowerment movement by Mexican Americans up to that time. It

made Chicanos into major American political actors and laid the foundation for today's Latino political power. *Rewriting the Chicano Movement* is a collection of powerful new essays on the Chicano Movement that expand and revise our understanding of the movement. These essays capture the commitment, courage, and perseverance of movement activists, both men and women, and their struggles to achieve the promises of American democracy. The essays in this volume broaden traditional views of the Chicano Movement that are too narrow and monolithic. Instead, the contributors to this book highlight the role of women in the movement, the regional and ideological diversification of the movement, and the various cultural fronts in which the movement was active. *Rewriting the Chicano Movement* stresses that there was no single Chicano Movement but instead a composite of movements committed to the same goal of Chicano self-determination. Scholars, students, and community activists interested in the history of the Chicano Movement can best start by reading this book. Contributors: Holly Barnet-Sanchez, Tim Drescher, Jesús Jesse Esparza, Patrick Fontes, Mario T. García, Tiffany Jasmín González, Ellen McCracken, Juan Pablo Mercado, Andrea Muñoz, Michael Anthony Turcios, Omar Valerio-Jiménez

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irma rangel great women in history: Las Tejanas Teresa Palomo Acosta, Ruthe Winegarten, 2010-01-01 Winner, Texas Reference Source Award, Reference Round Table, Texas Library Association, 2003 T.R. Fehrenbach Award, Texas Historical Commission, 2004 Since the early 1700s, women of Spanish/Mexican origin or descent have played a central, if often unacknowledged, role in Texas history. Tejanas have been community builders, political and religious leaders, founders of organizations, committed trade unionists, innovative educators, astute businesswomen, experienced professionals, and highly original artists. Giving their achievements the recognition they have long deserved, this groundbreaking book is at once a general history and a celebration of Tejanas' contributions to Texas over three centuries. The authors have gathered and distilled a wide range of information to create this important resource. They offer one of the first detailed accounts of Tejanas' lives in the colonial period and from the Republic of Texas up to 1900. Drawing on the fuller documentation that exists for the twentieth century, they also examine many aspects of the modern Tejana experience, including Tejanas' contributions to education, business and the professions, faith and community, politics, and the arts. A large selection of photographs, a historical timeline, and profiles of fifty notable Tejanas complete the volume and assure its usefulness for a broad general audience, as well as for educators and historians.

irma rangel great women in history: Quixote's Soldiers David Montejano, 2010-07-01 In the mid-1960s, San Antonio, Texas, was a segregated city governed by an entrenched Anglo social and business elite. The Mexican American barrios of the west and south sides were characterized by substandard housing and experienced seasonal flooding. Gang warfare broke out regularly. Then the striking farmworkers of South Texas marched through the city and set off a social movement that transformed the barrios and ultimately brought down the old Anglo oligarchy. In *Quixote's Soldiers*, David Montejano uses a wealth of previously untapped sources, including the congressional papers of Henry B. Gonzalez, to present an intriguing and highly readable account of this turbulent period. Montejano divides the narrative into three parts. In the first part, he recounts how college student activists and politicized social workers mobilized barrio youth and mounted an aggressive challenge to both Anglo and Mexican American political elites. In the second part, Montejano looks at the dynamic evolution of the Chicano movement and the emergence of clear gender and class distinctions as women and ex-gang youth struggled to gain recognition as serious political actors. In the final part, Montejano analyzes the failures and successes of movement politics. He describes the work of second-generation movement organizations that made possible a new and more representative political order, symbolized by the election of Mayor Henry Cisneros in 1981.

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irma rangel great women in history: Writing the Story of Texas Patrick L. Cox, Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., 2013-03-01 The history of the Lone Star state is a narrative dominated by larger-than-life personalities and often-contentious legends, presenting interesting challenges for historians. Perhaps for this reason, Texas has produced a cadre of revered historians who have had a significant impact on the preservation (some would argue creation) of our state's past. An anthology of biographical essays, *Writing the Story of Texas* pays tribute to the scholars who shaped our understanding of Texas's past and, ultimately, the Texan identity. Edited by esteemed historians Patrick Cox and Kenneth Hendrickson, this collection includes insightful, cross-generational examinations of pivotal individuals who interpreted our history. On these pages, the contributors chart the progression from Eugene C. Barker's groundbreaking research to his public confrontations with Texas political leaders and his fellow historians. They look at Walter Prescott Webb's fundamental, innovative vision as a promoter of the past and Ruthe Winegarten's efforts to shine the spotlight on minorities and women who made history across the state. Other essayists explore Llerena Friend delving into an ambitious study of Sam Houston, Charles Ramsdell courageously addressing delicate issues such as racism and launching his controversial examination of Reconstruction in Texas, Robert Cotner—an Ohio-born product of the Ivy League—bringing a fresh perspective to the field, and Robert Maxwell engaged in early work in environmental history.

irma rangel great women in history: !Doña Doormat No Está Aquí! Irene Dominguez, 1982

irma rangel great women in history: Chicanas in Charge José Angel Gutiérrez, Michelle Meléndez, Sonia A. Noyola, 2007-01-19 No state has a greater density of Chicano community leaders and politicians than does Texas. This study examines the lives and politics of a distinguished group of Chicana women who have risen to positions of power. The authors profile women who serve in various public capacities-federal judges, candidates for Lieutenant Governor, a statewide chair of a political party, and members of school boards and city and county governments. The diverse careers of these women offer rare glimpses of the kinds of struggles they face, both as women and as members of the Chicano community. *Chicanas in Charge* will be of great value to those interested in gender studies, political science, local government, public policy, oral history, biography, and Chicano studies.

irma rangel great women in history: More Studies in Rio Grande Valley History Milo Kearney, Anthony K. Knopp, Antonio Zavaleta, 2013

irma rangel great women in history: Políticas Sonia R. García, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Irasema Coronado, Sharon A. Navarro, Patricia A. Jaramillo, 2009-06-03 In the decades since Latinas began to hold public office in the United States in the late 1950s, they have blazed new trails in public life, bringing fresh perspectives, leadership styles, and policy agendas to the business of governing cities, counties, states, and the nation. As of 2004, Latinas occupied 27.4 percent of the more than 6,000 elected and appointed local, state, and national positions filled by Hispanic officeholders. The greatest number of these Latina officeholders reside in Texas, where nearly six hundred women occupy posts from municipal offices, school boards, and county offices to seats in the Texas House and Senate. In this book, five Latina political scientists profile the women who have been the first Latinas to hold key elected and appointed positions in Texas government. Through interviews with each woman or her associates, the authors explore and theorize about Latina officeholders' political socialization, decision to run for office and obstacles overcome, leadership style, and representational roles and advocacy. The profiles begin with Irma Rangel, the first Latina elected to the Texas House of Representatives, and Judith Zaffirini and Leticia Van de Putte, the only

two Latinas to serve in the Texas Senate. The authors also interview Lena Guerrero, the first and only Latina to serve in a statewide office; judges Linda Yanes, Alma Lopez, Elma Salinas Ender, Mary Roman, and Alicia Chacón; mayors Blanca Sanchez Vela (Brownsville), Betty Flores (Laredo), and Olivia Serna (Crystal City); and Latina city councilwomen from San Antonio, El Paso, Dallas, Houston, and Laredo.

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