

Name _____

Date _____

Who was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives?

Irma Lerma Rangel was the first female Mexican American legislator. She was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1976.

Irma Rangel was born in the small town of Kingsville, TX. She studied hard in school and eventually graduated from Texas A&M with a business degree. After graduating from Texas A&M, Irma became a teacher. At the age of 35, Irma pursued her dream of a law degree graduating from St. Mary's University School of Law. Following law school, Irma had a successful career as an assistant district attorney. In this position, Irma became aware of the many problems that poor families face.

In 1976, Irma Rangel ran for office in the Texas Legislature and won. There she worked hard to help women, the elderly, migrant workers, and victims of abuse. Irma had a vision to break the cycle of poverty and help families get off welfare through employment and educational programs for mothers with dependent children.

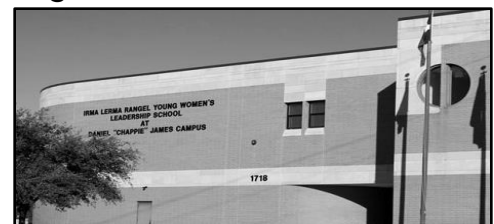
Irma was voted Woman of the Year in 1998 by the Texas Young Democrats and later inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. The first all-girls public school in Texas is named *Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School* in her honor.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

1. Irma Rangel was _____.
 - a. a teacher
 - b. an assistant district attorney
 - c. a Texas legislator
 - d. all of the above
2. Irma Rangel worked hard for _____.
 - a. the elderly
 - b. migrant workers
 - c. victims of abuse
 - d. all of the above
3. What programs did Irma think would help poor people get off welfare?
 - a. space and transportation programs
 - b. sports and exercise programs
 - c. employment and educational programs
 - d. counseling and nutritional programs
4. How was Irma Rangel honored?
 - a. She was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.
 - b. She was voted Woman of the Year in 1998
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. None of the above



May 1931 – March 2003



Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School

