

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

In Memory
of
Walter Hoppe Richter

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Austin in mourning the loss of Walter Hoppe Richter, who died September 8, 2003, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Walter Richter was born in the Double Horn community, southeast of Marble Falls, on September 17, 1916; he was the son of Walter Herman Richter and Bertha Lenore Hoppe Richter; and

WHEREAS, While a student at Southwest Texas State University, Walter served as editor of the school newspaper and as president of the student body; he earned a bachelor's degree in 1938 and a master's degree in 1939; he received a bachelor's degree in journalism from The University of Texas at Austin in 1942; and

WHEREAS, After serving in the Navy during World War II, Walter served as publisher and editor of *The Stockdale Star* from 1948 to 1951; from 1950 to 1954, he worked as a yearbook developer for the Steck Publishing Company of Austin; and from 1954 to 1962, he was executive director of the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation, a physical rehabilitation center; and

WHEREAS, Walter Richter represented District 19 in the Texas State Senate during the 58th Legislature and the 59th Legislature; as a senator, he sponsored legislation that led to the creation of the Texas Department of Aging; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Senate, Walter served in appointed positions at both the state and federal levels; he was appointed by Governor John Connally to serve as director of the Texas Office of Economic Opportunity; a year later, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to head the five-state Southwest region of the Office of Economic Opportunity; and President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the United States Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected community leader, Mr. Richter served as statewide president of United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, and for a decade, he served as chairman of the Government Relations Committee of what is now United Way of Texas; and

WHEREAS, A tireless public servant, Walter was recognized on numerous occasions for his many contributions to the community; he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Southwest Texas State University and Public Citizen of the Year by the Austin unit of the National Association of Social Workers; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Walter had a great love of people and journalism; he was an old-fashioned and forthright Democrat and was a man of integrity, strength, and compassion who was beloved for his humor and intelligence; and

WHEREAS, Walter Richter lived his life to the fullest and was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Walter Hoppe Richter: his wife, Dorothy Jean Richter; his daughter, Robyn Richter; his son and daughter-in-law, Gary Richter and Susan Wukasch; his granddaughter, Molly Richter; and his nephew, Carl Weaver; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Walter Richter.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 24, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate