

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 79

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Dr. Marion Jack Brooks of Fort Worth
2 on March 3, 2003, at the age of 83, has brought a great loss to the
3 family, friends, and fellow citizens of this esteemed gentleman,
4 and it is indeed appropriate to recognize his life and many
5 accomplishments at this time; and

6 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth, Dr. Brooks was born to Roy
7 and Eula Brooks on February 15, 1920; he was a graduate of I. M.
8 Terrell High School and Prairie View A&M University and earned his
9 medical degree from Howard University in 1951 before he returned to
10 his hometown, becoming one of Fort Worth's first African-American
11 physicians; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Brooks and his wife of 57 years, Marie Norris
13 Brooks, were united in marriage on Christmas Day in 1945, and their
14 long and loving union was blessed with 5 children, 10
15 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, A man of ambition, vision, and compassion, Dr.
17 Brooks was a noted leader in the civil rights movement who worked
18 tirelessly to integrate Fort Worth's hospitals for patients as well
19 as doctors; his efforts resulted in greater opportunities for
20 African-American physicians and increased health care options for
21 black patients in Fort Worth; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Brooks achieved many firsts during his rich and
23 rewarding life; in 1958, he and his brother, Donald Brooks, joined
24 together to open a medical clinic; in 1961, he became the first

1 African American to be named to the city's park board; and in 1962,
2 he and his wife helped to create Morningside United Methodist
3 Church; and

4 WHEREAS, In his role as an activist, Dr. Brooks founded the
5 Tarrant County Precinct Council and the Sickle Cell Anemia
6 Association of Texas, two organizations that sought to give a voice
7 to underrepresented groups; he overcame adversity throughout his
8 life and encouraged his children to embrace the opportunities
9 available to them and to follow their dreams; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Brooks was honored in 1994 with the first Dr.
11 Marion Brooks Annual Living Legend Award presented by the
12 Renaissance Cultural Center; his receipt of this eponymous award
13 was indeed deserved, as Dr. Brooks devoted his life to pursuing
14 equality in the fields of health care, education, and voting
15 rights; and

16 WHEREAS, Though he will be missed by all who knew and loved
17 him, Dr. Marion Jack Brooks has left a legacy for family and friends
18 to embrace and continue to support, and his memory will remain for
19 many years to come in the thoughts, words, and deeds of those
20 individuals who shared his life; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Marion Jack Brooks and extend
23 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Marie
24 Norris Brooks; to his children, Roy C. Brooks, Clarence Brooks,
25 Carol E. Brooks, Marian Brooks Bryant, and Marie Brooks Washington;
26 to his brother, Donald Brooks; to his 10 grandchildren and 3
27 great-grandchildren; and to the many other individuals who were

1 privileged to share in the life of this exemplary gentleman; and, be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
6 Dr. Marion Jack Brooks.