

By: Veasey

H.R. No. 742

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Dr. Donald Arthur Brooks, the
2 citizens of Fort Worth have lost a gifted surgeon and a pioneering
3 leader in the community, and we join his family and friends in
4 mourning their loss; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth, Dr. Brooks graduated among
6 the top of his class at I. M. Terrell High School before earning his
7 bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University in 1941; he went
8 on to serve the next two years in the United States Army, and much of
9 that time was spent in Italy with the 92nd Infantry Division during
10 World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, On his return to the United States, he pursued a
12 medical degree at Howard University with the assistance of the G.I.
13 Bill and money saved from summer jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1956, Dr. Brooks married Gloria Jewel Smith, and
15 the following year, after completing his residency in surgery at
16 Howard, he returned to Fort Worth, where he became the first African
17 American to practice general surgery in the city and the first
18 African American to become a board-certified surgeon in the state;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Together with his brother, Dr. Marion Brooks, a
21 family physician, he opened two clinics in his hometown and
22 dedicated himself to serving the city's minority community;
23 moreover, his considerable talents as a surgeon won him the
24 admiration and respect of his professional peers, and as chief of

1 surgery at St. Joseph Hospital, he set an example of excellence that
2 continues to inspire all who were privileged to know him; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Donald Arthur
6 Brooks of Fort Worth and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
7 his family: to his wife, Gloria Smith Brooks; to his children,
8 Gloria Brooks, Dr. Michael Brooks, and Dr. Ralph Brooks; to his
9 grandchildren, Alicia Brooks and Michael Brooks, Jr.; and to his
10 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
13 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr.
14 Donald Arthur Brooks.