

By: Truitt

H.R. No. 1703

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Jim McDermott of Tarrant County received the
2 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award for Staff Leadership from the
3 National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; and

4 WHEREAS, The chief executive officer of Mental Health Mental
5 Retardation of Tarrant County, Dr. McDermott was recognized for his
6 unwavering commitment to behavioral health care and for his notable
7 contributions to the industry over the course of more than two
8 decades; and

9 WHEREAS, With his vision of developing a comprehensive,
10 community-focused system of care for individuals with mental health
11 issues or mental retardation, Dr. McDermott has overseen numerous
12 expansions and improvements at MHMRTC; he worked diligently to
13 increase the agency's local, state, and federal resources from \$24
14 million to \$90 million, and he has significantly enhanced its
15 mental health crisis response system; MHMRTC now serves more than
16 20,000 patients annually, and it offers an array of programs,
17 including outpatient mental health, detox, and childhood
18 intervention; moreover, under Dr. McDermott's skilled leadership,
19 MHMRTC has earned a reputation as an innovative and high-quality
20 health care institution, and thus it is often used as a pilot site
21 for implementing new statewide initiatives; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. McDermott was chosen by the board chair of the
23 Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to serve
24 on the Mental Health Task Force, which was created to reshape the

1 state's community-based system of delivery; in 2007, he was
2 selected as chair of the Executive Directors Consortium of the
3 Texas Council of Community MHMR clinics, and he was asked to
4 participate in a Blue Ribbon Committee to examine workforce issues
5 related to assuring the availability of quality behavioral health
6 care in Tarrant County; and

7 WHEREAS, Dedicated to building a brighter future for Texans
8 with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities, Dr.
9 McDermott has garnered the lasting respect and appreciation of his
10 colleagues, patients, and fellow residents, and he may indeed
11 reflect with great pride on the positive impact he has had on his
12 community; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Jim McDermott on his receipt of
15 the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award for Staff Leadership from the
16 National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and extend to
17 him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Dr. McDermott as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.