

By: Darby

H.R. No. 398

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of San Angelo lost an esteemed physician
2 and civic leader with the passing of Dr. Ralph Raymond Chase on
3 March 16, 2012, at the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in San Angelo on January 3, 1923, Dr. Chase was
5 the son of Ralph Raymond Chase, Sr., and Hildur Sandberg Chase; he
6 graduated from San Angelo High School and Junior College before
7 earning a bachelor's degree in biology at The University of Texas at
8 Austin in 1943; and

9 WHEREAS, During World War II, he answered his nation's call
10 to duty, enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving in the Admiralty
11 Islands; following his military service, he earned his medical
12 degree at Northwestern University and served his residency in
13 Chicago, where he met his future wife, Virginia Louise Berg; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Chase began practicing pediatric medicine at
15 Angelo Community Hospital; in the early 1950s, he was instrumental
16 in carrying out a mass polio immunization program and later
17 coordinated another intensive inoculation effort against
18 diphtheria, tetanus, measles, rubella, and smallpox; with
19 characteristic concern that everyone have access to medical care,
20 he was one of the first to promote the use of physician's assistants
21 in underserved rural areas; named the Texas Pediatrician of the
22 Year in 1978, he also received the American Academy of Pediatrics
23 Citation; and

24 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Dr. Chase was a

1 member of the Tom Green County Historical Society and played a major
2 part in the development of a medical museum at the Fort Concho site;
3 in the 1970s, he helped launch the Roy E. Moon Distinguished
4 Lectureship in Science series and the Angelo Community Hospital
5 Lectureship in the Humanities series, later renamed the Chase
6 Lectureship in the Humanities, at Angelo State University; thanks
7 to his efforts, 11 Nobel Prize winners and numerous other scholars
8 have shared their ideas with the citizens of San Angelo; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the years, Dr. Chase received many honors,
10 including the Service to Society Award from the Northwestern
11 University Alumni Association and a distinguished alumnus award
12 from Angelo State University; in 1988, the San Angelo Chamber of
13 Commerce named him the Citizen of the Year, and he was recognized by
14 the mayor and city council with Ralph Chase Day in 1991; and

15 WHEREAS, Known to generations of patients as "Uncle Ralphie,"
16 this beloved physician worked throughout his life to improve the
17 health and well-being of his fellow Texans, and he contributed to
18 his community through nearly six decades of engaged citizenship;
19 now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Ralph Raymond
22 Chase and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:
23 to his wife of 60 years, Virginia Chase; to his children, Priscilla
24 Griffis and her husband, Don, Julia Kinkel and her husband, Carl,
25 Sallie Helms and her husband, Bill, and John Chase; to his
26 grandchildren, William Griffis and his wife, Leslie, James Griffis
27 and his wife, Lindsay, Abigail Cox and her husband, Jason, John

1 Griffis, and Travis and Chase Helms; to his great-grandchildren,
2 Sarah Cox and Chase Griffis; and to his other relatives and many
3 friends; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in honor of Dr. Ralph
7 Chase.