

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 2503

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Houston lost an accomplished physician
2 and civic leader with the passing of Dr. Rogers O'Neil Whitmire on
3 May 1, 2015, at the age of 69; and

4 WHEREAS, Rogers Whitmire was born in Houston on August 30,
5 1945, to Joseph and Rosa Fae Whitmire; a member of the Booker
6 T. Washington High School Class of 1963, he graduated summa cum
7 laude with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Prairie View A&M
8 College in 1967 and went on to complete a master's degree and his
9 M.D. at Michigan State University; in addition, he earned the
10 distinction of becoming the first African American to complete the
11 obstetrics and gynecology program at Baylor College of Medicine;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 1977, Dr. Whitmire became the first African
14 American to establish a private practice at the Texas Medical
15 Center, and he later moved his office to South Main Street, where he
16 continued to work until his passing; during a career that spanned
17 nearly four decades, he treated countless area residents and
18 delivered more than 5,000 babies; he further distinguished himself
19 as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at CHRISTUS
20 St. Joseph Hospital; and

21 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Dr. Whitmire
22 served on the board of directors of the NAACP Houston Branch for
23 many years, and he was a life member of that organization and of
24 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as well as a longtime congregant of

1 Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Whitmire shared a rewarding marriage with his
3 wife, Elsie, and he counted among his many blessings a treasured
4 family that included two children, Michael and Judith, and three
5 grandchildren, Savannah, Sascha, and Solomon; and

6 WHEREAS, Rogers Whitmire was a significant asset to his
7 community and an inspiring role model to many, and he leaves behind
8 a record of service that his loved ones can remember with pride;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Rogers O'Neil
12 Whitmire and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
13 family: to his wife, Elsie Whitmire; to his children, Michael
14 Whitmire and Dr. Judith Enders; to his grandchildren, Savannah,
15 Sascha, and Solomon Enders; to his brother, Dr. Gerald Whitmire;
16 and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Rogers
20 O'Neil Whitmire.