

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 298

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Dr. Charles B. Runnels on October 25, 2016, at the age of
3 91; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on July 30, 1925, Dr. Runnels was raised in
5 Texas; he enrolled at Stephen F. Austin University at the age of 16
6 and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from that institution;
7 answering his nation's call to duty, he served in the United States
8 Navy for four years, including one year with the Navy Air Corps in
9 the Asian theater of World War II; he completed law school at the
10 University of Houston in 1956 and then went to work for Tenneco; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1967, Dr. Runnels joined the site selection
12 committee for Pepperdine University, then known as George
13 Pepperdine College; the two-year assignment turned into a lifelong
14 career with the California-based school, which included more than
15 two decades as chancellor; his responsibilities included service as
16 the university's chief fund-raiser, and he coordinated successful
17 campaigns that brought in hundreds of millions of dollars in
18 contributions; he also founded the Youth Citizenship Seminar that
19 annually brought high school students to the campus to explore such
20 subjects as leadership, faith, and free enterprise; he was named
21 chancellor emeritus of Pepperdine in 2006, and he continued to be
22 involved with the university's board in the years that followed;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, In recognition of his long-standing efforts in

1 behalf of Pepperdine, Dr. Runnels was honored in 2010 with the
2 dedication of the university's athletic complex as the Charles B.
3 Runnels Sports and Recreation Village, and he also received an
4 honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the university's Seaver
5 College; and

6 WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, Dr. Runnels was a lifelong
7 member of the Churches of Christ, and he played an active role at
8 Culver Palms Church of Christ, where he was an elder; and

9 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Runnels was blessed with
10 the love and support of his wife, Amy Jo; he was a proud father of
11 three sons, Duke Runnels, Tyler Runnels, and the late Raleigh
12 Runnels, and a daughter, Susan Runnels Plumb, and he later saw his
13 family grow to include six grandchildren; and

14 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to helping young people develop into
15 productive citizens, Dr. Charles B. Runnels made a positive
16 difference in many lives, and his dedication to education and his
17 unwavering faith will continue to inspire those who had the good
18 fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Charles B.
21 Runnels and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his
22 passing; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
26 Dr. Charles B. Runnels.