

By: Huberty

H.R. No. 627

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a transformative figure in modern  
2 medicine drew to a close with the passing of Dr. Charles Aubrey  
3 LeMaistre on January 28, 2017, at the age of 92; and

4 WHEREAS, "Mickey" LeMaistre helped save countless lives  
5 through his pioneering work in cancer prevention; he served on the  
6 first U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and  
7 Health, which galvanized change in health care policy with its  
8 landmark 1964 report identifying cigarettes as a major health  
9 hazard; he went on to advocate powerfully against smoking as  
10 president of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Fund and as  
11 national president of the American Cancer Society, and he chaired  
12 the National Conference on Smoking OR Health as well as the  
13 International Summit of Smoking Control Leaders; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1978, Dr. LeMaistre became president of The  
15 University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and he held that  
16 position until his retirement in 1996; his unique gifts as a  
17 physician, educator, and administrator were used to masterfully  
18 guide the center's expansion during an era of rapid evolution in  
19 health care; among other achievements, he established an innovative  
20 and highly influential cancer-prevention program, and his  
21 groundbreaking work also included cost-saving outpatient services  
22 and a multidisciplinary approach to patient care; and

23 WHEREAS, Born in Lockhart, Alabama, Dr. LeMaistre  
24 demonstrated an early interest in medicine and began accompanying

1 two prominent Tuscaloosa physicians on house calls, even assisting  
2 in emergency surgeries; he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves as a  
3 student at the University of Alabama and continued to serve his  
4 country while completing his degree at Cornell University Medical  
5 School; after working as chief resident at New York Hospital, he  
6 became an assistant professor of medicine at Cornell and completed  
7 a postdoctoral research fellowship in which he collaborated on the  
8 development of drugs for infectious diseases; he was called to  
9 active duty by the army in 1951 as a commissioned officer senior  
10 assistant surgeon, and following his honorable discharge, he  
11 remained a physician on active nonmilitary duty with the United  
12 States Public Health Service; and

13         WHEREAS, Dr. LeMaistre joined the faculty of Emory  
14 University School of Medicine in the mid-1950s and rose to become  
15 the first chair of Preventive Medicine and Community Health before  
16 accepting a professorship at The University of Texas Southwestern  
17 Medical School in 1959; six years later, he was appointed associate  
18 dean of UT Southwestern, and he subsequently served the UT System as  
19 executive vice chancellor for Health Affairs, deputy chancellor,  
20 and chancellor-elect; he began a distinguished seven-year tenure as  
21 system chancellor in 1971; and

22         WHEREAS, Over the course of his extraordinary career,  
23 Dr. LeMaistre gave generously of his time and expertise as a member  
24 of the board for many charitable organizations; his extensive  
25 involvement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
26 was recognized with the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal in  
27 1995, and his myriad accolades further included the Cornell

1 University Alumni Award for Distinction, the University of Alabama  
2 School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the American  
3 Cancer Society Medal of Honor; the UT System Board of Regents named  
4 him Chancellor Emeritus, and he was an Honorary Life Trustee of the  
5 Menninger Foundation; and

6 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Dr. LeMaistre was the father  
7 of Dr. Charles Frederick LeMaistre, William Sydney LeMaistre,  
8 Dr. Joyce Anne LeMaistre, and Helen LeMaistre Meyer, and he took  
9 great pride in his six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren;  
10 he shared a fulfilling marriage of 52 years with Joyce Trapp  
11 LeMaistre until her passing in 2003; fortunate enough to find love a  
12 second time, he married Andreae "Andi" LeMaistre in 2005, and the  
13 couple worked together to launch a volunteer patient advocacy  
14 program and to support an initiative aimed at lowering the price of  
15 cancer drugs; and

16 WHEREAS, Mickey LeMaistre made a profound and positive impact  
17 in the world through his enormous achievements in medicine and  
18 education, and his contributions will continue to resonate for  
19 generations to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Charles Aubrey  
22 "Mickey" LeMaistre and extend deepest condolences to all who mourn  
23 his passing; and, be it further

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