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By:  Price H.R. No. 837

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Alan Keister of Amarillo has been named the recipient of the Dr. Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service by the American College of Physicians; and

WHEREAS, An internal medicine specialist, Dr. Keister recognized a need for health care among the city's uninsured, and in 2013, he began offering free health screenings at local schools; the response led him to found the Heal the City free clinic in partnership with Generation Next Church; the clinic opened on September 8, 2014, in a 1,400-square-foot house with four small exam rooms; initially operating once a week, it served urgent-care patients on Monday nights; and

WHEREAS, Numerous medical partners, donors, and volunteers were inspired to join Dr. Keister's effort, and the growing clinic relocated to the former Midtown YMCA building, a 20,000-square-foot facility; as it expanded its hours, it also added such programs as a monthly Women's Night for cancer screenings; in 2017, the clinic launched a chronic care program, Shalom, and treated 7,000 patients; today, more than 100 medical professionals give generously of their time and expertise to the clinic, assisted by some 400 community volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Keister, an Amarillo native, graduated from Baylor University and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School; he subsequently completed his internal medicine studies at Vanderbilt University and returned to his hometown in 2000; his work has been informed by his participation in faith-based medical missions to Central America; and

WHEREAS, Through his dedicated efforts as founder of Heal the City, Alan Keister has contributed immeasurably to the well-being of thousands of Amarillo residents, and he is richly deserving of this prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Alan Keister on his receipt of the Dr. Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service from the American College of Physicians and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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