H.R. No. 1313

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Memories of a life well lived remain to comfort the family and friends of Dr. Thomas Lee Charlton of Fort Worth, who passed away on January 25, 2019, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Tom Charlton was born in Helena, Arkansas, on December 18, 1936, to Marie Zola Broussard and Thomas Ogden Charlton; he moved with his family to Beaumont, Texas, at an early age and graduated from Beaumont High School in 1955; although he initially planned to become a physician, he was inspired to change majors by his history professors at Baylor University, whom he admired deeply, and he earned his degree in history and sociology in 1959; he went on to complete his master's degree and Ph.D. at The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, After teaching for eight years at San Antonio College, Dr. Charlton joined the faculty at Baylor in 1970 as a member of the history department; he also served the university as director of The Texas Collection library and became founding director of the Institute for Oral History; in 1993, he transitioned into academic administration, spending a decade in the Office of the Provost before returning to lead The Texas Collection from 2003 until his retirement in 2010; over the years, he conducted hundreds of interviews in his efforts to document oral history, and he passed the tradition on to thousands of Baylor students and community historians; he served as president of the Oral History Association and as founding president of the Texas Oral History Association, which named its Lifetime Achievement Award in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charlton shared a rewarding marriage of more than 30 years with Rebecca Sharpless, whom he wed in 1988; he was the proud father of two sons, John and Richard, and with the passing years, he experienced the joy of welcoming into his family five granddaughters, Nicole, Elizabeth, Brooke, Sarah, and Hannah; he was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio and Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, which he served in many capacities; in his leisure time, he enjoyed traveling, photography, and playing tennis, and he enthusiastically supported Baylor Bears athletics; and

WHEREAS, An esteemed member of his profession and a man of great warmth, kindness, and generosity, Dr. Tom Charlton will be profoundly missed by all who were privileged to know him, and they will forever carry his memory close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Thomas Lee Charlton and extend sincere sympathy to those who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Thomas Lee Charlton.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1313 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 3, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House