

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 49

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Bullard lost a beloved physician and
2 civic leader with the death of Dr. Marjorie Roper on January 3,
3 2018, at the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, Marjorie Ferrell was born in Bullard on June 7,
5 1921, to Hattie and Oran Ferrell; she graduated at 15 from Bullard
6 High School as the 1937 class valedictorian, studied pre-med at
7 Tyler Junior College and The University of Texas at Austin, and won
8 early acceptance at the UT Medical Branch at Galveston, where she
9 was one of only three women in her class; she earned her medical
10 degree in 1943 and, following her residency, joined the pediatric
11 practice of Dr. Ben Andres and Dr. Hardy Cook in Longview; and

12 WHEREAS, In August 1944, Ms. Ferrell married Leonard Bauman
13 Roper; she was the proud mother of four children, Dan, Tom, Richard,
14 and Harriet, and later in life, she was blessed with 13
15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Roper returned to her hometown and opened her
17 own practice in the back of her father's pharmacy in 1947, and she
18 went on to work out of the same building for the next 59 years;
19 affectionately known as "Doctor Margie," she treated generations of
20 Bullard residents of all backgrounds, from veterans of the Civil
21 War to children born in the 21st century, sometimes accepting
22 payment in the form of fresh fruit and vegetables; from 1968 to
23 1987, she also worked part-time at Rusk State Hospital; after she
24 retired at the age of 85, she became the first director of Bullard

1 United Methodist Church's Christus House Clinic, which now bears
2 her name; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to her medical practice, Dr. Roper was a
4 longtime supporter of the Bullard Mission House and the Bullard
5 Community Library, and she helped establish the Bullard Historical
6 Museum in her father's old building; her many accolades included
7 being named "Tomato Princess" during the Great Depression, winning
8 the Texas Baptist Mother of the Year award in 1963, and receiving
9 Tyler Junior College's Distinguished Graduate award in 1999; in
10 2014, a section of Highway 69 was renamed in her honor; and

11 WHEREAS, A true hometown hero, Marjorie Roper lived a rich
12 and purposeful life dedicated to her patients and to the town she
13 loved so well, and she leaves behind a legacy that will resonate in
14 the Bullard community for years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Marjorie Roper
17 and extend heartfelt sympathy to her relatives and many friends;
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
22 Dr. Marjorie Roper.