

By: Geren

H.R. No. 796

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Arthur J. Eisenberg, former codirector of the
2 University of North Texas Center for Human Identification and a
3 pioneer in the field of forensic genetics, passed away on November
4 8, 2018, at the age of 62; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of the Bronx, New York, Arthur Eisenberg
6 was born on May 20, 1956, to Armand and Rosalind Eisenberg, and he
7 grew up with the companionship of his sister, Marcia; he went on to
8 study at the State University of New York at Albany, where he
9 graduated with bachelor and master of science degrees and a Ph.D. in
10 molecular biology; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1989, Dr. Eisenberg was hired by the UNT Health
12 Science Center, beginning a tenure that spanned nearly three
13 decades until his retirement in 2017; he was instrumental in
14 establishing both the UNT Center for Human Identification and the
15 UNT Health Science Center's graduate program for forensic genetics,
16 through which he had the opportunity to mentor aspiring forensic
17 analysts who went on to play key roles in federal and state law
18 enforcement agencies across the U.S.; and

19 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Eisenberg's leadership as codirector, the
20 Center for Human Identification gained a reputation as one of the
21 nation's top DNA laboratories and assisted with tens of thousands
22 of cases involving missing and unidentified persons; over the
23 course of his career, he worked on cases related to violent crimes
24 and natural disasters and used his expertise to identify victims of

1 the September 11 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and the 1973
2 Pinochet military coup in Chile; he never lost sight of what
3 mattered most about his work, which was helping families with
4 missing loved ones to find closure, and he made sure to remind his
5 staff of what was at stake for every project they undertook; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Eisenberg shared his extensive knowledge and
7 insights freely as the chair of the U.S. DNA Advisory Board and as a
8 member of the Texas Forensic Science Commission, among numerous
9 other groups; in 2011, he was named the recipient of the Paul L.
10 Kirk Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; and

11 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Eisenberg enjoyed the love
12 and support of his wife, Debbie, and his three daughters, Breanne,
13 Brandy, and Kristin, and he was proud to welcome into his family six
14 cherished grandchildren, Sienna, Evan, Keelyn, Charley, Sloane,
15 and Joeb; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Arthur J. Eisenberg made contributions to his
17 profession that impacted the lives of countless people and
18 influenced a generation of forensic scientists, and he leaves
19 behind a legacy that will long be treasured by those who were
20 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Arthur J.
23 Eisenberg and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing;
24 and, be it further

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

1 Eisenberg.