

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 1313

R E S O L U T I O N

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

4           WHEREAS, Tom Charlton was born in Helena, Arkansas, on  
5 December 18, 1936, to Marie Zola Broussard and Thomas Ogden  
6 Charlton; he moved with his family to Beaumont, Texas, at an early  
7 age and graduated from Beaumont High School in 1955; although he  
8 initially planned to become a physician, he was inspired to change  
9 majors by his history professors at Baylor University, whom he  
10 admired deeply, and he earned his degree in history and sociology in  
11 1959; he went on to complete his master's degree and Ph.D. at The  
12 University of Texas at Austin; and

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

1 Association, which named its Lifetime Achievement Award in his  
2 honor; and

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

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

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

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