

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 1563

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Fort Worth are mourning the loss of
2 admired pediatrician Dr. John M. Richardson, who died on April 29,
3 2019, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Dr. James Joseph Richardson and Margaret
5 Tidwell Richardson, John Richardson was born in Fort Worth on
6 November 19, 1930, and grew up with five siblings, Mary Helen,
7 Peggy, Joe, Dick, and Bob; he met his future wife, the former Joan
8 Webb, while attending R. L. Paschal High School, and they
9 eventually became the parents of four children, Kathy, Marian,
10 John, and Jane; a calm, engaged, and encouraging father,
11 Dr. Richardson organized vacation road trips that provided
12 enjoyable opportunities for learning; he was later blessed with 12
13 grandchildren, Elizabeth, Andrew, Philip, Gregory, Samuel,
14 Abigail, Harry, Jack, Caroline, Marshall, Natalie, and Matthew, as
15 well as 7 great-grandchildren, Charlie Joann, Archer, Cedar,
16 Emerson, Meadow, Felix, and Arthur; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson served his country in the U.S. Navy,
18 and as a hospital corpsman, he discovered his love of medicine;
19 after graduating from Texas Wesleyan College and the University of
20 Texas Southwestern Medical Branch, he completed his pediatric
21 residency at the Children's Medical Center of Dallas; he practiced
22 in Fort Worth for more than four decades, and his gentleness, skill,
23 and patience earned him the lasting affection of his patients;
24 exceptionally dedicated, he worked every day of the week, made

1 house calls, and provided his home phone number, a source of great
2 comfort to worried young mothers; moreover, he served as the
3 medical director for many organizations, including the Muscular
4 Dystrophy Association, the Lena Pope Home, and St. Andrew Catholic
5 School; and

6 WHEREAS, A devout Catholic, Dr. Richardson set an example of
7 humility and compassion; he helped save thousands of infants from
8 abandonment as the successful champion of the state's trailblazing
9 safe haven law, which allows parents who cannot care for their
10 babies to leave them at fire department stations and other
11 designated locations; he also cofounded both The WARM Place, a
12 grief support center for children, and the Key School for children
13 with learning differences; during 29 years as the pediatrician for
14 the Edna Gladney Home, he played a role in approximately 9,000
15 adoptions; he further served on the boards of the Cook Children's
16 Medical Center, the Alliance For Children, Gill Children's
17 Services, Catholic Charities Fort Worth, and the Fort Worth Zoo
18 Association; in his free time, he was a student of the art and
19 history of the American Southwest, and he became the first male
20 docent of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art; he was also an
21 avid baseball fan; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson received numerous accolades over the
23 years, among them the Gold-Headed Cane Award and the Physician
24 Humanitarian Award from the Tarrant County Medical Society; in
25 addition, he was named Fort Worth's Outstanding Citizen by the
26 Exchange Club; and

27 WHEREAS, Through his selfless efforts, John Richardson

1 touched the lives of innumerable people, and he will forever hold a
2 special place in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know
3 him; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. John M.
6 Richardson and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his
7 passing; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. John
11 M. Richardson.