

By: Cole

H.R. No. 18

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Eugene Urdy of Austin, an esteemed
2 chemist, professor, and civic leader, passed away on October 16,
3 2024, at the age of 90; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of William Braxton Urdy and Roberta Pearl
5 Jackson Urdy, Charles Urdy was born in Georgetown on December 27,
6 1933, and he grew up with the companionship of 12 siblings; he
7 graduated from the old L. C. Anderson High School in Austin in 1950,
8 and he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Samuel Huston
9 College in 1954; answering his nation's call to duty, he joined the
10 U.S. Army Chemical Corps, and he served in the Korean War; in 1962,
11 he obtained a doctorate in physical analytical chemistry from The
12 University of Texas at Austin; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Urdy served as a chemistry professor at North
14 Carolina College at Durham, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas
15 Southern University before enjoying a rewarding tenure at
16 Huston-Tillotson University that spanned more than two decades;
17 along the way, he was employed as a research chemist at Dow Chemical
18 in Freeport and later at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;
19 he went on to accept a position as manager of environmental science
20 and technical development at the Lower Colorado River Authority,
21 where he worked until his retirement in 1994; and

22 WHEREAS, First elected to the Austin City Council in 1981,
23 Dr. Urdy represented Place 6 for four terms, and he was named mayor
24 pro tem; he further distinguished himself as the first African

1 American man to serve as chair of the Austin housing authority
2 board, a post he held for 21 years; moreover, he chaired the Travis
3 County Juvenile Board citizens' advisory committee and the Black
4 Voters Action Project, and he was a longtime board chair of the
5 Austin Revitalization Authority, which named a public plaza in his
6 honor; he was also a member of the Austin Charter Revision Committee
7 and the Austin Tomorrow Goals Assembly; among his many
8 achievements, he was named the Outstanding Educator of America in
9 1975, and he received a community service award from the NAACP in
10 1971; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Urdy shared a rewarding marriage with his wife,
12 Margaret, that spanned more than five decades before her passing in
13 2013, and he took great pride in his three sons, Keith and Steven
14 Urdy, who preceded their father in death, and Christopher; over the
15 years, he had the pleasure of welcoming into his family many
16 grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; and

17 WHEREAS, Charles Urdy gave freely of his time and expertise
18 to better his community, and he leaves behind a record of service
19 that his loved ones can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Charles Eugene
22 Urdy and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends; and,
23 be it further

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