

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 603

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Dr. J. Carl Norris Jr. of Mineola on January 6, 2024, at
3 the age of 100; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Gertrude Norris and Julius Norris
5 Sr., J. C. Norris was born in Arkansas on July 18, 1923; he was
6 salutatorian of his high school class in Atlanta, Texas, and he
7 attended the College of Marshall, which eventually became East
8 Texas Baptist University; while serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps
9 during World War II, he was badly injured in a plane crash; he
10 endured a long recovery and went on to graduate as valedictorian of
11 Southern College of Optometry in 1945; after establishing his
12 practice in Mineola, he treated patients for 45 years and helped
13 build what is now Mineola Eyecare; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Norris further benefited his community in many
15 leadership positions, including school board trustee and member of
16 the boards of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce and First National
17 Bank; in addition, he was a member of the ETBU Board of Trustees and
18 Advisory Board; he also served on the Mineola City Council, and he
19 was later elected mayor as one of the youngest individuals to do so
20 in the city's history; following his retirement, he contributed his
21 time and talents to the board of the Meredith Foundation for more
22 than two decades and led the organization as chair; he was an active
23 congregant of First Baptist Church of Mineola and held a variety of
24 roles, from Sunday school teacher and chair of the deacons to member

1 of the long-range planning and building steering committees; among
2 his many accolades, he received the 1981 Mineola Rotary Man of the
3 Year Award and the chamber of commerce's Distinguished Citizen
4 Award for a lifetime of service; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Norris shared a fulfilling 78-year marriage
6 with his wife, Charm, until her passing in 2020; the couple enjoyed
7 traveling together and visited six continents; a devoted family
8 man, he took great pride in their daughters, Suzanne and Patricia,
9 their grandchildren, Melissa, Jennifer, Blair, and Brooke, and
10 their great-grandchildren, Zachary, Andrew, Titus, and Hugo; he
11 brightened the days of those around him with his kindness and keen
12 sense of humor; an avid reader, he kept up with current events in
13 newspapers; and

14 WHEREAS, J. C. Norris inspired innumerable people through
15 his dedication to his family, his faith, and his community, and he
16 is remembered with admiration and affection by all who were
17 fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
19 hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. J. Carl Norris Jr. and extend
20 sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
23 day, it do so in memory of Dr. J. C. Norris.