

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 783

In Memory  
of  
Waun Ki Hong

**WHEREAS**, Trailblazing scientist Dr. Waun Ki Hong died on January 2, 2019, at the age of 76, bringing a great loss to oncological medicine and to his colleagues at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; and

**WHEREAS**, The son of Sung Koo Hong and Bok Young Shin, Ki Hong was born in Korea on August 13, 1942; he graduated from Yonsei University College of Medicine and served as a flight surgeon in the South Korean Air Force during the Vietnam War; on September 6, 1969, he married the love of his life, Mi Hwa, and the following year, they immigrated to the United States; the couple were blessed with two sons, Ed and Burt, and they later welcomed into their family four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Daniel, William, and Vivienne; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hong completed his internship at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital in New York City, his residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boston, and a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York; returning to the VA Medical Center as chief of medical oncology, he helped establish its training program and led a series of landmark laryngeal cancer trials that transformed treatment of the disease and laid a foundation for organ preservation in numerous cancer types; he joined MD Anderson in 1984 as section chief in head and neck medical oncology; earning recognition as "the father of chemoprevention," he conducted research leading to targeted therapies, allowing the identification and treatment of people at high risk of cancer and the fine-tuning of therapies for individuals; he led the Division of Cancer Medicine from 2001 until his retirement in 2014 and then continued to serve as a special advisor; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, Dr. Hong authored nearly 700 articles, edited 11 major books, and served on the editorial boards of 17 scientific journals; he received over \$70 million in research funding, and he was recognized with numerous honors, including the American Cancer Society Medal of Honor, as well as awards from the American Association for Cancer Research, which he served as president, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology; he took greatest pride in having trained hundreds of oncologists, and in 2016, the AACR established the Waun Ki Hong Award for Outstanding Achievement in Translational and Clinical Cancer Research to encourage young scientists; and

**WHEREAS**, Ki Hong's groundbreaking research has extended and improved the lives of countless cancer patients, and he has left a further legacy through the many scientists and physicians he mentored over the course of his accomplished career; now, therefore, be it

S.R. No. 783

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Waun Ki Hong and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Waun Ki Hong.

Miles

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2019, by a rising vote.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate