

House Resolution 38 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY BERRY and H. MILLER

1 A Resolution memorializing and honoring the
2 contributions and legacy of Dr. Walter James Riley.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter James Riley was born in Milan,
4 Georgia, on March 6, 1938, graduated as valedictorian
5 of Milan High School, completed his undergraduate
6 degree at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley,
7 Georgia, with honors in three years in 1959, and
8 graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville,
9 Tennessee, in 1964; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley served his internship in
11 Pottsville, Pennsylvania, enlisted in the United States
12 Air Force and completed a general medicine residency
13 at Lockbourne Air Force Base in Columbus, Ohio,
14 and a residency in general surgery at the Veterans
15 Administration Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, and at the
16 University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1970; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was board-certified in general
18 surgery and practiced as Walter James Riley, M.D.,
19 P.C., for 45 years in Des Moines, Iowa; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was an associate professor at the
21 University of Iowa Department of Surgery, associate
22 professor at the Iowa Lutheran Hospital Family Medicine
23 Residency Program, and associate professor at Des
24 Moines University School of Osteopathic Medicine; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was chief of surgery at Iowa
26 Lutheran Hospital and at Mercy Medical Center in Des
27 Moines during his career; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was a member of the American

1 College of Surgeons, and a life member of the National
2 Alumni Association of Meharry Medical College; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was an active member of
4 Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines and was a
5 philanthropist who gave generous donations to his
6 church, and to civic organizations, universities,
7 schools, and resident physicians, endowing several
8 scholarships for aspiring students; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley received numerous awards for
10 professional excellence from various governing bodies
11 of medicine including the "ACE" (Always Committed
12 to Excellence) Award from Iowa Health System in 2011
13 before retiring to Nashville with his wife and family
14 in May 2011; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was married to his loving wife
16 Carolyn for 53 years, and was the father of daughters
17 Arlita, Janice, Angela, and Linda, and son Walter II,
18 as well as a grandfather and great-grandfather; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Riley was a magnificently kind and
20 gentle man and an accomplished surgeon who leaves
21 his family and friends with a profound and enduring
22 legacy; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
24 the House of Representatives memorializes and honors
25 the accomplishments and achievements of Dr. Riley and
26 his contributions to the citizens of the city of Des
27 Moines and of the state.