



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Senate Resolution 22.19

(Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate honoring the memory and legacy of Dr. Tom McGovern.)

WHEREAS, the TTUHSC Student Senate would like to extend its deepest condolences to the friends and family of Dr. Tom McGovern, who passed away on March 21, 2022, and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern came to Lubbock as a Roman Catholic priest from County Cork, Ireland, and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern dedicated his life to being an inspirational teacher, mentor, colleague, and faculty member of the TTUHSC School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry for more than 40 years, and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern was also the Founding Director of the TTUHSC School of Medicine *Center for Ethics, Humanities, and Spirituality*, and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern was a voice of compassion and a constant advocate for the most vulnerable, and

WHEREAS, the following statements describe the positive impact Dr. McGovern had on others, as said by his friends and colleagues, during the *Thomas F. McGovern, EdD Celebration of Life* on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steven Berk says, “Dr. McGovern was the most honorable righteous man I have ever known. He saw the good and potential in everyone, no matter their addiction or sin. He taught us how far simple kindness can go,” and

WHEREAS, Dr. Allan Haynes says, “Tom was the spirit and soul of the Health Sciences Center. He left a legacy of grace and kindness,” and

WHEREAS, a compilation of medical student testimonials says, “Both his door and heart were always open. His goal was to always check in on us and listen to what we had to say. Dr. McGovern was amazing at teaching others how to be healers,” and

WHEREAS, a compilation of psychiatry resident physician testimonials says, “Dr. McGovern taught humanistic medicine. He taught residents how to see past people’s symptoms and to see the humanity in patients. And then, he pushed residents to see the humanity within themselves,” and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sarah Wakefield says, “Dr. McGovern was a compass, a barometer, a guiding light. He taught students to see people for who they are and to invite them to move forward, no matter how small the steps,” and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern dedicated his entire life to medicine and to the counseling and guidance of others to overcome substance abuse and to persevere through the loss of a loved one, and

WHEREAS, Dr. McGovern’s selfless, humanitarian spirit is embedded in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center share this remembrance of Dr. Tom McGovern as a tribute to his legacy at this institution and the Lubbock community,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori Rice-Spearman, PhD**, President of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; **Steven Berk, MD**, Dean, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine; **Allan Haynes, MD**, Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs and Development; **Sarah Wakefield, MD**, Chair, Department of Psychiatry; and **Mateo Rosiles**, Editor of *The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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Passed the Senate, 5 April 2022



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Bernardo Gonzalez

President, Student Senate