

By: Dean

H.R. No. 725

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The *Longview News-Journal* received 13 awards from
2 the North and East Texas Press Association at its annual convention
3 in Rockwall on April 10, 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year, the *News-Journal* competes in the large
5 daily classification alongside such newspapers as the *Tyler Morning*
6 *Telegraph*, *Lufkin Daily News*, and *Texarkana Gazette*; work honored
7 this year was published during 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, *News-Journal* photographer Les Hassell captured
9 first place in feature photo for an image of a wedding inside a
10 local hospital and another of an assisted living facility resident;
11 taking first place in editorial writing were former *News-Journal*
12 editor Ric Brack and former associate editor Phil Latham, for
13 pieces about Gregg County's Confederate statue and the lack of
14 transparency in disclosing COVID-19 cases at nursing homes;
15 Mr. Latham also received top honors in column writing; former
16 sports writer Hayden Henry earned first place in his category for
17 stories about the rising popularity of pickleball and about high
18 school athletes trying to stay in shape during school shutdowns;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Jo Lee Ferguson, a columnist and writer, was the
21 runner-up for Journalist of the Year and also took second place in
22 feature writing for a piece about a COVID-19 survivor; in addition,
23 managing editor Randy Ferguson received a second place award for a
24 story on Mother's Day celebrations during the pandemic; the sports

1 staff received second place for its coverage of high school
2 football; and

3 WHEREAS, The newspaper as a whole achieved third place in
4 Sweepstakes, for total points accumulated in all categories, as
5 well as in General Excellence; moreover, Randy Ferguson received
6 third place in headline writing and shared third place in page
7 design with Mr. Henry; Michael Cavazos and Mr. Hassell each won
8 third place recognition in the sports photo category, and
9 Mr. Cavazos received another third place in the news photo
10 division; and

11 WHEREAS, Committed to informing, enlightening, and
12 entertaining readers, the staff of the *Longview News-Journal* have
13 distinguished themselves through their skill and dedication,
14 earning the respect and admiration of their peers and the public
15 alike; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the *Longview News-Journal* on its
18 receipt of 13 awards from the North and East Texas Press
19 Association; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the newspaper as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.