

By: Wu

H.R. No. 1272

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, August 10, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of the
2 birth of the late Marvin Harold Zindler, a well-known Houston
3 television news personality and consumer advocate; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Austrian Jewish immigrants, Abe and Udith
5 Zindler, Marvin Zindler was born in the Bayou City in 1921; he
6 attended Tarleton State University and worked for the Bellaire
7 Police Department and his family's clothing store before beginning
8 his career in media; after breaking into radio in 1943 as a
9 part-time DJ and spot news reporter for KATL, he created and hosted
10 a half-hour crime news program; from 1950 to 1954, he was a reporter
11 and cameraman for Southwest Film Production Company, which produced
12 the evening news for KPRC, and in 1962, he began a 10-year stint
13 tracking down fugitives as a Harris County sheriff's deputy; he
14 also established a consumer fraud division; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Zindler was hired by KTRK in 1973, and his
16 exposé of the Chicken Ranch brothel in La Grange led to its closure;
17 the case inspired the musical and movie *The Best Little Whorehouse*
18 *in Texas*; an early consumer champion and action reporter, he
19 campaigned against scams, medical abuses, and, in his Friday "Rat
20 and Roach Reports," unsanitary eateries; those popular segments
21 featured his famed "Slime in the Ice Machine" rundown on sites with
22 unhygienic ice production; and

23 WHEREAS, Deeply compassionate, Mr. Zindler united prominent
24 people from many realms in a team called Marvin's Angels to help

1 those in need at home and abroad, from suffering children and
2 innocents caught in the legal system to captives in foreign lands;
3 during his final illness, he continued to file consumer reports
4 from his hospital bed until just days before his death on July 29,
5 2007, at the age of 85; and

6 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Zindler shared a
7 fulfilling marriage of 56 years with his wife, Gertrude, before her
8 passing in 1997; they were the parents of five children, Helen,
9 Marvin, Donny, Mark, and Danny; and

10 WHEREAS, Marvin Zindler informed and enlightened his viewers
11 as a pioneering consumer advocate, and his commitment to fighting
12 indifference and injustice made a positive difference in the lives
13 of innumerable people in Texas and beyond; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Marvin Zindler on
16 the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.