

By: Schofield

H.R. No. 30

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, May 2, 2023, marked the 100th anniversary of the
2 death of Lee J. Rountree, who rendered exceptional service to
3 Bryan, Brazos, and Grimes Counties as a member of the Texas House of
4 Representatives from 1921 to 1923; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Hays County on July 15, 1868, Leonidas
6 Johnson "Lee J." Rountree was the grandson of Alabama state senator
7 the Reverend Samuel Johnson; at the age of 11, he went to work at his
8 stepfather's newspaper business, and he later took over its
9 operation alongside his mother; he operated and acquired several
10 other publications in Georgetown and Sulphur Springs over the
11 course of his career, and he distinguished himself further by
12 serving as president of the National Editorial Association and as
13 secretary of the Southwest Press Association; he was also president
14 of the Hose, Hook and Ladder Company of Kyle; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Rountree served as a representative at a number
16 of political conventions, and he was appointed as the tax
17 assessor-collector for Kyle in 1890, at the age of 21; he moved to
18 Bryan in 1920 and purchased a controlling interest in the *Bryan*
19 *Eagle*, becoming the publication's managing editor; that same year,
20 he made a successful bid for a seat in the House of Representatives,
21 and he went on to run for reelection unopposed in 1922; and

22 WHEREAS, During his two terms of service, Representative
23 Rountree worked diligently for the good of his constituents; he
24 chaired the Conservation and Reclamation Committee and made further

1 contributions to committees on appropriations, taxation, and other
2 issues; he passed away while on the House floor on May 2, 1923, and
3 was buried in Bryan two days later; his widow, Frances Rountree, was
4 appointed to serve out his final term, and she later became the
5 first woman elected to represent Brazos County in the state
6 legislature, holding that office from 1931 to 1932; and

7 WHEREAS, Lee Rountree made a positive impact in the lives of
8 many Texans through his legislative and professional achievements,
9 and a century after his passing, he remains a source of great pride
10 to the community he faithfully served; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
12 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby commemorate the 100th
13 anniversary of the death of the Honorable Lee J. Rountree and pay
14 tribute to his life and legacy.