

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Laurie Ezzell Brown, editor and publisher of the  
2 *Canadian Record*, has announced that this venerable newspaper is  
3 suspending operations in March 2023, and this development provides  
4 a fitting opportunity to honor Ms. Brown's exceptional work in  
5 guiding the publication; and

6           WHEREAS, Established in 1893, the *Canadian Record* was  
7 purchased by Ms. Brown's parents, Ben and Nancy Ezzell, in the  
8 1940s; the paper gained renown through bold investigative reporting  
9 and strong editorial stances, as well as the chronicling of local  
10 events in Hemphill County; Ms. Brown became editor upon the death  
11 of her father in 1993 and sole publisher when her mother retired in  
12 2010; building on a legacy of excellence, she has overseen the  
13 *Record's* watchful coverage of the daily workings of government, and  
14 like her father, a member of the Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame, she  
15 has not shied from addressing controversial topics of public  
16 interest; and

17           WHEREAS, The *Canadian Record* has received myriad accolades,  
18 including the 2007 Tom and Pat Gish Award from the University of  
19 Kentucky Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, which  
20 acknowledged the paper's courage, tenacity, and integrity in  
21 journalism; Ms. Brown has earned personal recognition from such  
22 organizations as the Panhandle Press Association in numerous  
23 categories, from spot news photography to column writing, and in  
24 2009, she was inducted into the PPA Hall of Fame; in 2022, she

1 garnered the Frank W. Mayborn Award for Community Leadership from  
2 the Texas Press Association; and

3       WHEREAS, Over the years, Ms. Brown has given generously of  
4 her time and expertise to support good journalism across the state;  
5 she has served as president of both the TPA and PPA, and she has been  
6 active in the West Texas Press Association; moreover, she has  
7 worked to raise national awareness of the challenges facing rural  
8 newspapers; that mission has been elevated through the release of  
9 the documentary *For the Record*, which premiered at the Big Sky  
10 Documentary Film Festival in Montana in February 2023; it follows  
11 Ms. Brown's battle to secure the future of the newspaper after her  
12 retirement; while her efforts to find a new owner for the *Record* are  
13 ongoing, she has announced that the paper is closing its doors until  
14 a buyer can be found; and

15       WHEREAS, Laurie Ezzell Brown has devoted her career to the  
16 vital task of informing and enlightening her fellow citizens, and  
17 as she embarks on the next chapter of her life, she may indeed  
18 reflect with pride on her wide-ranging contributions; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor Laurie Ezzell Brown for her  
22 accomplishments as editor and publisher of the *Canadian Record* and  
23 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be  
24 it further

H.R. No. 528

1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for Ms. Brown as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
3 House of Representatives.

King of Hemphill

H.R. No. 528

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 528 was adopted by the House on March 16, 2023, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House