

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 253

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Legendary Dallas-Fort Worth radio announcer Ron  
2 Chapman bid goodbye to the airwaves on June 24, 2005, ending a  
3 45-year career as one of the city's most influential and admired  
4 broadcasters, and this memorable milestone provides a fitting  
5 opportunity to reflect on Mr. Chapman's many contributions to his  
6 fellow Texans; and

7           WHEREAS, A mainstay of North Texas radio for more than four  
8 decades, Mr. Chapman first made his name on KLIF 1190 in the heyday  
9 of AM radio during the 1950s and 1960s, and he quickly attracted a  
10 loyal following when he joined with Jack Woods to form the first  
11 "Charlie and Harrigan" team; in the mid-60s, he moved to WFAA-TV,  
12 where he hosted the popular *Sump'N Else!* dance show; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Chapman secured his stature as a prominent radio  
14 personality during a three-decade-long tenure at KVIL-FM that began  
15 in 1968 when he was hired as program director and morning show host;  
16 at the turn of the century, he turned his talents to a new job at  
17 KLUV-FM, where he continued to delight his fans with his  
18 distinctive style; and

19           WHEREAS, His upbeat approach to the issues of the day won him  
20 a large and appreciative audience, and his popularity arose in part  
21 from his capacity for seamlessly blending callers into his program,  
22 and his skill at showcasing listeners' comments and witticisms  
23 bespoke both a generous spirit and a keen sense of showmanship;  
24 fielding some 200 calls every morning, he demonstrated impeccable

1 timing, a razor-sharp wit, and a determination to find and share the  
2 good news and uplifting stories that each day brought; his great  
3 sensitivity proved especially important during his most memorable  
4 on-air moment when he saved a woman from taking her life; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Chapman's optimism earned him the attention of  
6 generations of North Texans, resulting in a long-term relationship  
7 of mutual affection and respect unusual for the fast-moving radio  
8 industry; and

9 WHEREAS, In a business in which the popularity of  
10 broadcasters waxes and wanes with each succeeding season, Ron  
11 Chapman has built a career that has outlasted passing fads and has  
12 encompassed nearly half a century; a 2004 inductee in the Texas  
13 Radio Hall of Fame, he was named "Radio Personality of the Year" and  
14 received a prestigious Marconi Radio Award from the National  
15 Association of Broadcasters in 1989, the first year the awards were  
16 given; and

17 WHEREAS, A focused and dedicated professional, Mr. Chapman is  
18 a devoted family man as well, and the love and understanding of his  
19 wife, Nance, have been a continual source of support and strength  
20 over the course of his career; and

21 WHEREAS, Although his many friends and colleagues, as well as  
22 his innumerable listeners, are saddened by his decision to move on,  
23 they also wish Mr. Chapman well as he opens a new and exciting  
24 chapter in his life, and we join them in expressing appreciation for  
25 his fine work through the years; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
27 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Ron Chapman for his

1 outstanding career in radio broadcasting and honor him on the  
2 occasion of his retirement; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for Mr. Chapman as an expression of high regard by the  
5 Texas House of Representatives.