

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 1528

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, PBS news anchor Jim Lehrer spent his formative years
2 in the Lone Star State, and we, as Texans, may take great pride in
3 his notable achievements as a journalist and writer; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Wichita, Kansas, Mr. Lehrer attended middle
5 school in Beaumont and high school in San Antonio, where he was a
6 sports editor at Thomas Jefferson High's school newspaper, the
7 *Jefferson Declaration*; after graduating from Victoria College and
8 the University of Missouri and spending three years in the U.S.
9 Marine Corps as an infantry officer, he began his news career in
10 Dallas, working for 10 years as a newspaper reporter, columnist,
11 and editor and later as the host of a local television news program;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 1972, Mr. Lehrer moved to Washington, D.C., where
14 he worked as public affairs coordinator for PBS and as a
15 correspondent for the National Public Affairs Center for
16 Television; joining forces with Robert MacNeil in 1973 to cover the
17 Senate Watergate hearings, he began one of the most enduring and
18 respected journalistic partnerships in television history; in
19 1975, they launched what would become the *MacNeil/Lehrer Report*,
20 which garnered more than 30 major awards for its co-anchors; and

21 WHEREAS, The partners took an extraordinary risk in 1983 by
22 transforming the program into *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, the
23 first and only 60-minute nightly broadcast of national news,
24 proving there existed both a need and a substantial audience for

1 serious, long-form journalism; broadcast by more than 300 PBS
2 stations, *The NewsHour* draws an estimated three million viewers
3 each weeknight and is carried via satellite in Asia, Europe, Latin
4 America, Africa, and the Middle East; and

5 WHEREAS, Since Mr. MacNeil's retirement in 1995, Mr. Lehrer
6 has continued as sole anchor and executive editor of the renamed *The*
7 *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*; under his direction, the program has
8 extended its reach by launching an Internet site and opening a West
9 Coast studio in San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, *The NewsHour* has received numerous Emmy and Peabody
11 Awards through the years, and Mr. Lehrer has been further honored
12 with a presidential National Humanities Medal; in the last five
13 presidential elections, he moderated 10 nationally televised
14 candidate debates, handling all three debates in 1996 and 2000 and
15 moderating the first debate between President George W. Bush and
16 Senator John Kerry in 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to his outstanding professional career
18 in news, Mr. Lehrer has written 15 novels, and his latest, *The*
19 *Franklin Affair*, was published in April 2005; he has also written
20 two memoirs and three plays and is married to the novelist Kate
21 Lehrer, with whom he shares not only a love of fiction but a
22 cherished family of three daughters, Jamie, Lucy, and Amanda, and
23 six grandchildren; and

24 WHEREAS, For 30 years, Jim Lehrer has been at the helm of what
25 is recognized as the most credible, objective, and influential news
26 program on television; he has set a high standard for broadcast
27 journalism, and we have come to rely on him not only for information

1 about current events, but for integrity and an all-inclusive
2 perspective on the world in which we live; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
4 Legislature hereby commend Jim Lehrer on his distinguished career
5 and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for Mr. Lehrer as an expression of high regard by the Texas
9 House of Representatives.