

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.R. No. 1881

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Amanda Blakely of Crandall has scored yet another
2 triumph in her stellar academic career by winning the 37th annual
3 Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Journalism Award in the high school
4 print division; and

5 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial and the
6 National Scholastic Press Association, the awards are intended to
7 encourage reporting on the disadvantaged in this country, including
8 a critical analysis of attitudes, private endeavors, or public
9 policies that affect their lives; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Blakely's entry for the 2005 competition
11 concerned the experiences of children placed in foster care by the
12 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; titled
13 "Ms. Mary and the Big Blue House," the compelling article drew on
14 in-depth interviews with three teenagers who were living in a home
15 that provided them with tremendous love and support; and

16 WHEREAS, The prestigious RFK memorial award is one of a host
17 of accolades garnered by Ms. Blakely during her senior year; at the
18 state journalism conference in April 2005, she was named Journalist
19 of the Year and top feature writer in the state, and she has also
20 been selected as first runner-up for the national Journalist of the
21 Year title; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to winning four national awards in the
23 Quill and Scroll International Writing Contest, Ms. Blakely took
24 second place for feature writing in the Columbia Scholastic Press

1 Association contest, first place for feature writing in a *Dallas*
2 *Morning News* competition, and first and second place for news
3 writing in a contest sponsored by the Texas Press Association and
4 Interscholastic League Press Conference; and

5 WHEREAS, After sweeping all four events at the UIL District
6 12AAA journalism contest--news writing, feature writing, editorial
7 writing, and headlines--this talented student enjoyed further
8 success at the regional competition and has advanced to the state
9 contest in feature writing and headline writing; and

10 WHEREAS, Editor-in-chief of the Crandall High School *Pirate*
11 *Press*, where she has worked with adviser Carol Countryman, and
12 secretary of the National Honor Society, Ms. Blakely has won a Hunt
13 Leadership Scholarship and plans to study
14 communications/journalism at Southern Methodist University; and

15 WHEREAS, Amanda Blakely is a gifted and socially engaged
16 writer who has brought great credit to her school and compiled a
17 record of accomplishments that promises a bright and fulfilling
18 future; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
20 Legislature hereby warmly congratulate Amanda Blakely on her
21 receipt of the 37th annual Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Journalism
22 Award in the high school print division and extend to her sincere
23 best wishes for continued success in all her endeavors; and, be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for Ms. Blakely as an expression of high regard by the
27 Texas House of Representatives.