

By: Murphy

H.R. No. 1813

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 37-year career of Jack Loftis at the *Houston*  
2 *Chronicle* is a long and noteworthy chapter in the history of Texas  
3 journalism; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Hillsboro, Mr. Loftis started in the  
5 newspaper business as a sportswriter at the *Hillsboro Daily Mirror*  
6 in 1955, while he was still attending Baylor University in Waco; and

7           WHEREAS, After graduating from Baylor in 1957 with a  
8 bachelor's degree in business administration, he worked several  
9 jobs before returning to journalism to become the editor of the  
10 *Daily Mirror* in 1962; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1965 he was hired as a copy editor at the *Houston*  
12 *Chronicle* and was appointed editor of the *Chronicle's* *Sunday Texas*  
13 *Magazine* in 1970; four years later, he was named the paper's  
14 assistant managing editor and five years after that, the assistant  
15 editor; and

16           WHEREAS, When the Hearst Corporation purchased the *Chronicle*  
17 in 1987, Mr. Loftis was promoted to vice president and editor, and  
18 in 1998 he became the editor and associate publisher; and

19           WHEREAS, During his 15 years as the *Chronicle's* editor, Mr.  
20 Loftis was instrumental in the publication's growth and success;  
21 the paper opened several new domestic and foreign bureaus and won  
22 numerous local, state, and national journalism awards; and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Loftis has likewise contributed to the field of  
24 journalism through his involvement in various professional

1 organizations; he is a former president and board member of the  
2 Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, which awarded him the  
3 James Madison Award in 1999; he has also served as president of the  
4 Newspapers Features Council, receiving its Jester Award in 1992,  
5 and of the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors,  
6 which in 1997 named him as one of the first 10 inductees in the AASFE  
7 Features Hall of Fame; a former director of the Texas Daily  
8 Newspaper Association, he has served twice as a juror for the  
9 Pulitzer Prize and has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from  
10 the Headliners Foundation of Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, On his retirement from the *Chronicle* in 2002, Mr.  
12 Loftis was named editor emeritus; and

13 WHEREAS, Jack Loftis has long been committed to his alma  
14 mater; for eight years he was a member of the Baylor Alumni  
15 Association Board of Directors and for three years a director of the  
16 Baylor "B" Association; the school named him a distinguished  
17 alumnus in 1988 and bestowed the Baylor Media Award on him in 1997;  
18 in 2001 the university further honored this former Baylor baseball  
19 player by naming the press box at Baylor Ballpark after him; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Loftis has also devoted himself to his community  
21 by serving on the boards of the Houston READ Commission, Clean  
22 Houston, the Houston Club, the *Chronicle* Goodfellows, the Crime  
23 Stoppers of Houston, and the Cartoonists Society of America; even  
24 in retirement he remains active, together with his wife, Beverly,  
25 in the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis  
26 Society, the Friends of West University Parks, and Citizens for  
27 Animal Protection; and

1           WHEREAS, The many notable contributions of Jack Loftis to his  
2 profession and to his community have greatly benefited his fellow  
3 Texans; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby honor Jack Loftis for his remarkable career in  
6 journalism and for his civic engagement and extend best wishes to  
7 him for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

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