

By: Farabee

H.R. No. 1966

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Wichita Falls have lost a greatly
2 admired citizen with the passing of publisher and community leader
3 James D. Lonergan on April 29, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on December 20, 1925, in Omaha, Mr. Lonergan
5 graduated from the University of Nebraska, where he majored in
6 journalism and economics; from 1953 to 1962, he worked in newspaper
7 management with Bolton Publications, and through the years, served
8 as vice president and publisher of various papers in Ohio including
9 *The Journal*, the *Dover*, the *Times-Reporter*, and the Lake County
10 *News-Herald*, all part of Horvitz Newspapers; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Lonergan joined Harte-Hanks as a newspaper group
12 president and corporate vice president in 1980, and within months
13 he was made president and publisher of the *Times Record News*, a
14 position he held until his retirement in 1994; he soon thereafter
15 established and operated Lonergan Media Consulting Company; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Lonergan generously shared his expertise with
17 his professional community; a mentor to younger journalists, he
18 served as chair of the Journalism in Education Committee of the
19 Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and helped define
20 accreditation standards for college journalism departments; he
21 also served on the board of directors for Horvitz and Northwest
22 Media; and

23 WHEREAS, An active member of the Wichita Falls community, Mr.
24 Lonergan served on the boards of the Salvation Army, the American

1 Red Cross, the Clean City Commission, the County Tax Appraisal
2 Appeals Board, and the West Texas Chamber of Commerce; he was a
3 member of the Wichita Falls Museum advisory board and the board of
4 governors of the Wichita Falls Country Club, and he was
5 instrumental in the creation of the Times Charities, through which
6 the *Times Record News* makes public donations to local nonprofit
7 agencies; moreover, Mr. Lonergan is credited with building support
8 for a multipurpose events center and the Allred Unit of the state
9 prison system; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lonergan was a gifted storyteller and an avid
11 golfer; he enjoyed 40 years of marriage to his first wife, the
12 former Jean Gass, and they were blessed with four sons; after her
13 death, Mr. Lonergan was fortunate enough to find love again, and he
14 married Nancy Spalding, with whom he shared nearly two decades; and

15 WHEREAS, Through his contributions to his community, James
16 Lonergan made a lasting difference in the lives of others, and his
17 dedication to his profession and to his fellow residents of Wichita
18 Falls will long be remembered with great admiration and
19 appreciation; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James D. Lonergan and
22 offer condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Nancy
23 Spalding; to his children, David, Sean, Brian, and Matt Lonergan,
24 Jan Stahler, Diane Osborne, and Christopher Spalding; to his
25 grandchildren, Seamus, Brian, Devin, Tim, James, Micael, Paige,
26 Heather, Drew, Katie, Colleen, Brooke, Morgan, Cash, Robert,
27 Lauren, and Brian; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James
5 Lonergan.