

By: Vaught

H.R. No. 1990

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The noted Austin writer Lawrence Wright has added
2 another accomplishment to his extraordinary career by winning the
3 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for his book *The Looming Tower:*
4 *Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas,
6 Mr. Wright attended Tulane University in New Orleans and the
7 American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he taught English and
8 earned a master's degree in applied linguistics; and

9 WHEREAS, Returning to the United States in 1971, Mr. Wright
10 quickly distinguished himself as a journalist; in 1980 he returned
11 to Texas to write for *Texas Monthly*; he also worked as a
12 contributing editor for *Rolling Stone*, and since 1992 he has been a
13 staff writer for the *New Yorker*; and

14 WHEREAS, In his six previous books Mr. Wright has
15 demonstrated his keen intelligence and wide range of interests,
16 taking on subjects from the lives of modern-day religious figures
17 in *Saints and Sinners* to the controversy over "recovered memory" in
18 *Remembering Satan* to the life of Latin American dictator Manuel
19 Noriega in the novel *God's Favorite*; and

20 WHEREAS, A talented screenwriter as well, Mr. Wright is the
21 coauthor of the film *The Siege*, about the American response to
22 Islamic terrorism, and he wrote the script for the Showtime
23 production of his novel *God's Favorite*; he is also very likely the
24 only member of the Council on Foreign Relations who has performed as

1 a blues keyboardist at Stubb's Bar-B-Que in Austin, as a member of
2 the Austin band WhoDo; and

3 WHEREAS, A comprehensive and gripping account of the
4 background of the attacks on America on September 11, 2001, his
5 latest book, *The Looming Tower*, tells two interwoven stories,
6 juxtaposing the rise of the terrorist organization al-Qaeda with
7 the attempts of American intelligence and law enforcement officials
8 to track the terrorist threat; Mr. Wright began work on the book on
9 the afternoon of 9/11 and continued his efforts over the next five
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, The subject of excellent reviews worldwide, *The*
12 *Looming Tower* was a *New York Times* bestseller for eight weeks; in
13 addition to receiving the Pulitzer, the book has been recognized
14 with the Lionel Gelber Award for nonfiction and the J. Anthony Lukas
15 Book Prize and was nominated for the National Book Award; and

16 WHEREAS, Author Wright's remarkable and varied career has
17 long been celebrated for its many successes, and it is fitting that
18 *The Looming Tower* has been recognized with the premier American
19 award for nonfiction, not only for the skill and elegance with which
20 Mr. Wright tells his story, but for the insight the book provides at
21 a crucial time in our nation's history; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
23 Legislature hereby congratulate Lawrence Wright on winning the
24 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for *The Looming Tower* and extend to
25 him best wishes for his continued success; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Mr. Wright as an expression of high regard by the Texas

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1 House of Representatives.