

By: Berman

H.C.R. No. 204

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The *Tyler Morning Telegraph* is celebrating its
2 centennial on November 18, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, Part of a long newspaper tradition, the *Tyler*
4 *Morning Telegraph* is owned by the T. B. Butler Publishing Company,
5 Inc., which has been run by the same family for five generations,
6 starting on November 18, 1910, when Thomas Booker Butler purchased
7 the *Tyler Courier-Times*, an afternoon newspaper formed in 1906 with
8 the consolidation of the *Daily Courier*, founded in 1877 as a weekly,
9 and the *Weekly Times*; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Butler, a civic leader, businessman, and
11 attorney, served one term as county judge of Smith County and filled
12 an unexpired term as judge of the 7th Judicial District Court; he
13 made his mark in many aspects of commerce, most notably as the
14 founder and president of Guaranty State Bank and as publisher of the
15 *Courier-Times*, where he fostered a pattern of community engagement;
16 during his first four years at its helm, the paper successfully
17 campaigned for the construction of a modern streetcar system and
18 was instrumental in replacing an outmoded ward system with a city
19 manager form of government; and

20 WHEREAS, On November 14, 1929, Butler Publishing printed the
21 first edition of the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, which featured
22 expanded coverage of East Texas cities, while the *Courier-Times*
23 retained its focus on matters in Tyler; the Sunday paper was renamed
24 the *Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph*; eventually, the nationwide

1 shift toward morning newspapers took its toll on the *Courier-Times*,
2 and the company ceased publication of its afternoon newspaper in
3 1995; and

4 WHEREAS, Through the years, members of the Butler family
5 continued to guide Butler Publishing; Mr. Butler's daughter, Sarah
6 Butler, was succeeded by her nephew, Calvin Clyde, Jr.; Mr. Clyde's
7 son, Nelson Clyde III, began serving as president and publisher in
8 1990, while Nelson Clyde IV now serves as associate publisher;
9 other family members involved in the paper's management include
10 operations manager Andrew Clyde and board member Jim Bothwell; the
11 paper's stability and continuity of vision are also represented by
12 the remarkable tenures of two directors, W. E. "Buddy" Hendley, the
13 business manager and treasurer, and Everett Taylor,
14 editor-in-chief, who each joined the organization more than a
15 half-century ago; and

16 WHEREAS, The company has maintained its culture of quality,
17 earning numerous awards in recent years for editorial excellence,
18 public service, and philanthropy; in 2005, the *Tyler Morning*
19 *Telegraph* received a Charles E. Green Award for breaking news from
20 the Headliners Foundation of Texas, and it has won numerous
21 journalism honors from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors;
22 the paper's coverage of the judicial process has been recognized
23 multiple times with the Gavel Award from the Texas Bar Association,
24 and Baylor University named the Butler Publishing Company the Texas
25 Family Business of the Year for 2005 in the large-company division;
26 the Better Business Bureau recognized the newspaper with a Torch
27 Award for Marketplace Ethics, and in May 2008, the City of Tyler

1 selected founder T. B. Butler as the second honoree in Tyler's
2 Half-Mile of History; and

3 WHEREAS, The enduring success of the T. B. Butler Publishing
4 Company offers strong testimony to the business values and
5 journalism standards that Thomas Booker Butler established and
6 handed down to his descendants, and the 100th anniversary of the
7 newspaper provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the history
8 of the Butler family and the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby congratulate the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* on the occasion of
12 its 100th anniversary and extend best wishes for continued success
13 to all those associated with this venerable newspaper; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* as an expression of high
17 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.