

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Delbert Willis, one of Fort Worth's most respected  
2 newspapermen, died on March 25, 1987, at the age of 72; and

3           WHEREAS, Mr. Willis, who began in the 1930s as a copy boy for  
4 the *Fort Worth Press*, devoted himself to the newspaper for over 40  
5 years and was serving as its editor when the newspaper was closed in  
6 1975; and

7           WHEREAS, This esteemed journalist later wrote a column for  
8 the *Fort Worth News-Tribune*, and he trained many of the reporters  
9 and editors on that newspaper's staff when they earlier worked for  
10 the *Press*; and

11           WHEREAS, Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Willis  
12 enlisted in the United States Army; he served with honor as a  
13 lieutenant, fighting courageously during the invasion of Morotai  
14 Island in the South Pacific and sustaining wounds that ended his  
15 military service; and

16           WHEREAS, Many years later, in 1966, he wrote an outstanding  
17 front-page story relating to a dramatic meeting that he had just  
18 experienced during a visit to Tokyo; there, he met the ailing  
19 Japanese force commander who had led the ambush on Morotai Island  
20 which resulted in Mr. Willis' injuries during the attack; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Willis, a Neiman Fellowship winner at Harvard  
22 University, was a consummate professional whose distinctive  
23 newswriting style was immediately recognizable; "Farewell, Fort  
24 Worth," his headline for the final 1975 edition of the *Fort Worth*

1 *Press*, succinctly reflected his longtime professional philosophy,  
2 which was, "Write 'em tight and write 'em interesting"; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
5 Legislature hereby honor the life of Delbert Willis; and, be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
10 Mr. Willis.

Shelton

H.R. No. 1194

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1194 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 16, 2009.

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Chief Clerk of the House