

By: Shelton

H.R. No. 1194

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.