

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 2705

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and former colleagues are mourning  
2 the loss of veteran Texas newspaperman Charles Raymond Bell, Jr.,  
3 of Waxahachie, who died on March 5, 2009, at the age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Waco, Ray Bell began his career in  
5 journalism at the age of 16, when he graduated from high school and  
6 began a full-time job with the *Hillsboro Daily Mirror*; he started as  
7 an assistant sports editor but was soon promoted to sports editor;  
8 he also took on the job of writing about local engagements,  
9 weddings, and parties and eventually was given responsibility for  
10 the entire paper; and

11 WHEREAS, Picking up a college education piecemeal between  
12 jobs, Mr. Bell was a journalist for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*,  
13 the *Temple Daily Telegram*, the *Charlotte Observer*, the *Waco*  
14 *Tribune-Herald*, the *Dallas Times Herald*, and the *Fort Worth Press*;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, He spent an exceptional 20 years with the *Dallas*  
17 *Morning News*, where his work in the newsroom earned him the respect  
18 of his editors and colleagues; he could handle myriad  
19 responsibilities, and he received numerous awards, including ones  
20 for his firsthand report of surviving a heart attack in the paper's  
21 parking lot in 1983; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Bell also worked for the Associated Press in  
23 Atlanta, sold articles to national magazines, such as *The Saturday*  
24 *Evening Post* and *Vanity Fair*, and published six books, including

1 *The Hiroshima Pilot*, which he coauthored with William Bradford  
2 Huie; he taught journalism part-time at El Centro College in Dallas  
3 and worked in public relations; and

4 WHEREAS, Well past his retirement from full-time newspaper  
5 work, Mr. Bell carried on as a journalist, and he covered local high  
6 school football games even as his health began to fail, until about  
7 a year before his death; and

8 WHEREAS, Ray Bell's veins ran with printer's ink for 60 years  
9 as he pursued the trade he loved, and though his final late edition  
10 has been put to bed, memories of the gentle nature and colorful  
11 personality of this old-style journalist will remain to comfort all  
12 those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Charles Raymond Bell,  
15 Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to  
16 his wife, Barbara Bell; to his sons, Ray Bell III, Don Shaw, and  
17 Kevin Shaw and his wife, Marsha; to his daughter, Monica Prater, and  
18 her husband, Richard; to his five grandchildren and one  
19 great-grandchild; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ray Bell.