

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 188

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a groundbreaking journalist
2 and tireless champion of open government with the death of Beverly
3 Ann Arnold of Austin on September 1, 2012, at the age of 67; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on April 6, 1945, in Jackson, Mississippi, the
5 former Ann Watson was the daughter of Bill and Mildred Watson; her
6 interest in journalism was sparked as a young student in Little
7 Rock, Arkansas, where the integration of Central High School in
8 1957 made the national news; following her family's move to Fort
9 Worth, she began a newspaper in her junior high school and continued
10 to write for the L. D. Bell High School newspaper and community
11 publications until her graduation; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Arnold attended Texas A&M University in
13 Arlington and transferred to The University of Texas at Austin;
14 throughout her years in college, she contributed to various papers,
15 including the *Daily Texan* and the *Dallas Times Herald*, winning a
16 Headliners award for her work in 1966; she graduated with a
17 bachelor's degree in journalism in 1968 and that same year married
18 her high school sweetheart, Reg Arnold; and

19 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, when few women worked in the Capitol
20 Press Corps, Mrs. Arnold joined the Capitol bureau of UPI and
21 covered the actions of the state legislature as well as a number of
22 controversial stories, including the Sharpstown scandal; she
23 embarked on a career with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in 1980 and,
24 while interviewing governor-elect Mark White, was offered a job;

1 she soon became the first female press secretary to a Texas
2 governor; and

3 WHEREAS, Later, Mrs. Arnold served as president of the Texas
4 Association of Broadcasters, and over the course of her more than
5 two decades in that role, membership doubled and programs
6 significantly expanded; under her able leadership, TAB became a
7 strong backer of the state's open government laws and lobbied for an
8 improved emergency alert system; Mrs. Arnold oversaw the creation
9 of a new permanent office for TAB and expanded the Texas Broadcast
10 Education Foundation's endowment; in 2008, TAB honored her with its
11 first Lifetime Achievement award; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Arnold also worked closely with legislators to
13 pass the Texas Free Flow of Information Act and the Texas Citizens
14 Participation Act; in recognition of her diligent efforts, the
15 Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas presented her with its
16 James Madison Award in 2001; moreover, she served as the president
17 of the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations in
18 2005; and

19 WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, Mrs. Arnold enjoyed the love
20 and support of her husband and their sons, Merle and Jonathan; and

21 WHEREAS, A stalwart advocate of the people's right to
22 information, Ann Arnold will be deeply missed, but her courage,
23 tenacity, and vision will forever inspire all who had the good
24 fortune to know her; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Beverly Ann Arnold and
27 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her sons,

1 Merle Arnold and his wife, Julie, and Jonathan Arnold; to her
2 sister, Sue March; and to her other relatives and many friends; and,
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
6 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ann
7 Arnold.