

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 681

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and newspaper readers around the
2 state are mourning the death of longtime journalist and publisher
3 Bert C. West of Palacios, who passed away on January 24, 2013, at
4 the age of 86; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Indiana on October 28, 1926, Bert West began
6 his long and distinguished career in 1947, writing for harness
7 racing magazines in Indianapolis, and he took his first newspaper
8 job as a sports reporter five years later; over a career that would
9 span more than six decades, he engaged in every facet of the
10 newspaper business, from reporter and editor to owner and
11 publisher; working primarily in Texas since his move here in 1954,
12 he contributed to more than 20 dailies and weeklies across the
13 state; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. West worked mostly at small papers, covering the
15 news in communities such as Stephenville, El Campo, Port Lavaca,
16 Vernon, Bay City, San Benito, Littlefield, Pasadena, Dumas, Bogata,
17 and Yoakum; in 1968, he accepted an offer from the *Houston Chronicle*
18 to manage its bureau at the Manned Spacecraft Center, and he covered
19 the first moon landing for the paper; he also acted as the space
20 center correspondent for *Newsday* and three international news
21 agencies; in 1999, he joined the staff of the *Palacios Beacon*,
22 serving as editor for the last decade of his professional life and
23 working alongside a son and grandson; and

24 WHEREAS, A talented and persuasive reporter, Mr. West was the

1 lead correspondent on a lengthy series in St. Louis that was
2 instrumental in the city's maintaining its airport in Missouri
3 rather than investing in a new facility in Illinois, and he penned a
4 succession of articles that helped keep a TxDOT district office
5 open in Yoakum; his coverage of the Kentucky Derby in the early
6 1950s earned him a commendation from the Associated Press, and his
7 colleagues in the Texas Press Association bestowed on him the
8 Golden 50 Award for his years of exemplary service; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. West joined enthusiastically in the life of the
10 communities where he worked; he founded youth sports programs in
11 Stephenville and El Campo and started fishing tournaments in Port
12 Lavaca and Palacios; he was the director of the Yoakum Hospital
13 District and the president of the Calhoun County Fair; he also
14 joined numerous local Jaycee, Rotary, and Optimist clubs and served
15 on a number of library boards; in Palacios, he was director of the
16 chamber of commerce and a member of the Centennial Committee, and he
17 was elected to the city council, which he further served as mayor
18 pro tem; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout his endeavors, Mr. West enjoyed the love
20 and support of his wife, Betty Lou, with whom he shared 64 years,
21 before she passed away in 2012; he took great pride in a treasured
22 family that grew to include 8 children, 22 grandchildren, and 22
23 great-grandchildren; and

24 WHEREAS, This veteran, old-school journalist will be
25 remembered for his longstanding commitment to informing and
26 enlightening his fellow citizens and for the many contributions he
27 made to the communities in which he lived; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bert C. West and
3 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
4 sons, Nick West and his wife, Mary, Pat West, and Larry West and his
5 wife, Missy; to his daughters, Leidon Eames and her husband, John,
6 Dodi Edinger and her husband, George, Debbie Reyna and her husband,
7 Tim, and Karen Robey and her husband, Mickey; to his 22
8 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; and to his other
9 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bert West.