

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 968

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For a century, *The Facts* newspaper has served
2 citizens of Brazoria County as a vital source of information; and

3 WHEREAS, This venerable publication was established by
4 printer R. Roy Ruffin as *The Freeport Facts*, a weekly that debuted
5 on February 28, 1913, not long after the founding of Freeport; the
6 first edition reported on the growth of the city and included
7 accounts of the completion of the Hotel Carlton and the opening of a
8 new grocery store; at the time, the paper was one of seven in the
9 area; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1914, a local editor and publisher,
11 C. P. Kendall, Sr., purchased *The Freeport Facts*; he was committed
12 to covering the news thoroughly while supporting community and
13 emphasizing positive developments, and this legacy was carried on
14 by his sons, Manis Kendall and C. P. Kendall, Jr., who assumed
15 leadership in 1931; and

16 WHEREAS, The current owner, Southern Newspapers, Inc.,
17 purchased the paper in 1952 and briefly called it *The Daily*
18 *Facts-Review* before public opinion prompted a change to the
19 *Brazosport Facts*; five years later, publisher James Nabors took the
20 helm and built readership by adding a weekend edition and
21 increasing the size of the paper; Hurricane Carla temporarily
22 halted production in 1961, but the publication quickly rebounded
23 and eventually outgrew its offices, leading Mr. Nabors to move its
24 headquarters to Clute in 1976; following his retirement, the paper

1 was led for six years by Bruce Morisse; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 1, 1992, Bill Cornwell began a distinguished
3 tenure as editor and publisher that has continued for more than two
4 decades; he expanded publication to seven days a week, extended
5 coverage to most of the county, and changed the name from the
6 *Brazosport Facts* to *The Facts* to reflect the wider reach; in recent
7 years, the paper has kept pace with the digital age by establishing
8 a website and social media presence; and

9 WHEREAS, The six original competitors to *The Facts* have long
10 since vanished, and it is now the only daily newspaper in the
11 county; its enduring presence is a testament to its proud tradition
12 of quality journalism and its steadfast dedication to the community
13 it serves; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of *The Facts*
16 newspaper and extend to all those associated with the publication
17 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the newspaper as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.