

By: White

H.R. No. 1367

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Local institutions play a vital role in the
2 prosperity of the Lone Star State, and those enterprises that build
3 a record of dependability and longevity enjoy a special degree of
4 esteem in their communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Established August 1, 1903, Livingston Telephone
6 Company was the first public utility formed in Polk County; its
7 original switchboard served only 40 hand-cranked phones, each with
8 its own line, and was run by operators 24 hours a day; as technology
9 improved and demand increased, the company adapted to meet these
10 changing needs; in 1910, the county's first creosoted telephone
11 poles were installed, a year later a separate line for long distance
12 calls was added, and in 1914, a new switchboard was purchased that
13 increased capacity to 300 phones; and

14 WHEREAS, Livingston Telephone Company moved into its own
15 building in 1959 and converted to the fully automatic dialing
16 system, allowing its customers to call across the country for the
17 first time; in 1980, the exchange was updated to a touch-tone
18 system, and in 1985, a digital central control office was
19 installed; in 1983, a subsidiary, Telcom Supply, was formed as a
20 phone store, and it was expanded in 1984 to include mobile phones as
21 an agent of GTE Mobilnet; the newest location of the business offers
22 its customers drive-in services and expanded facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the decades, the utility has benefited from the
24 guidance of many prominent local individuals, including past

1 managers A. W. Peebles, Rex Atkinson, and Troy Rippy; the first
2 president, S. H. Smith, served until 1922, and Judge J. C. Feagin
3 succeeded him for several years; S. Ross Smith then took over and
4 led the company until 1978, at which point his son, Sidney Smith,
5 became president; today, this rich tradition of leadership
6 continues under Curt Walzel, and Mr. Smith remains involved as
7 chair of the board; and

8 WHEREAS, For the past eleven decades, Livingston Telephone
9 Company has served the people of Polk County well, and it is indeed
10 a pleasure to recognize this successful local Texas business at
11 this time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor Livingston Telephone Company on its 110th
14 anniversary and extend to its owners and employees sincere best
15 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the company as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.