

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 532

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An exhibition of works by J. Griffis Smith is
2 opening at the Texas Capitol Visitors Center on February 28, 2015,
3 and this event provides a welcome opportunity to recognize this
4 acclaimed photographer; and

5 WHEREAS, For three decades, Griff Smith's photographs
6 enlivened the pages of *Texas Highways*, the official travel magazine
7 of the Texas Department of Transportation, and he served as photo
8 editor from December 2008 until his retirement in August 2014; his
9 compelling images introduced readers to every corner of the Lone
10 Star State and inspired many to hit the road themselves, although
11 few individuals can match the estimated 250,000 miles he roamed in
12 the course of documenting the beauty and diversity of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith, a Caldwell native, became a shutterbug
14 during his senior year in high school, when his father, Joe C.
15 Smith, encouraged him to shoot a roll of Kodachrome a day; with his
16 friends, he traveled the back roads fulfilling this mission, and it
17 sparked the desire to create beautiful color photographs of Texas;
18 he went on to complete his associate's degree in photography at the
19 Art Institute of Atlanta, but he soon grew lonesome for wide-open
20 spaces and headed home; after six years as a public relations
21 photographer for Texas A&M University, he joined TxDOT in 1984; his
22 keen sense of detail, tremendous technical skill, and eye for the
23 offbeat earned the admiration of peers and subscribers alike, and
24 his artfully composed images helped *Texas Highways* become a

1 top-tier publication; and

2 WHEREAS, In Fall 2014, Texas A&M University Press published
3 *On the Road with Texas Highways: A Tribute to True Texas*, a coffee
4 table book of signature photos from Mr. Smith's remarkable career;
5 the subjects include Texas icons, landscapes, people, and
6 historical and cultural destinations; he is now the proprietor of
7 an Austin-based travel photography and tourism consulting firm,
8 True Griff Media, and of the website TrueGriff.com; and

9 WHEREAS, Through his lens, Griff Smith has captured unique
10 images of the Lone Star State that will continue to beguile
11 innumerable people for years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor J. Griffis Smith on the occasion of his
14 exhibition at the Capitol Visitors Center and commend him for his
15 three decades of exemplary service to the Texas Department of
16 Transportation and *Texas Highways*; and, be it further

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