

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The end of an era in Texas journalism has come with  
2 the retirement of Paul Burka from *Texas Monthly* magazine in March  
3 2015; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Galveston, Mr. Burka earned a bachelor's  
5 degree in history from Rice University and a law degree from The  
6 University of Texas at Austin; he was accepted to the State Bar of  
7 Texas, and he began his career as an attorney with the Texas  
8 Legislature, where, as counsel to the Senate Natural Resources  
9 Committee, he was able to closely observe state legislators in  
10 their native habitat; and

11           WHEREAS, In March 1974, Mr. Burka submitted a Texas-themed  
12 limerick puzzle to a new periodical called *Texas Monthly*, and the  
13 following month he published his first story for the magazine,  
14 earning \$75 for a piece about the old baseball stadium at The  
15 University of Texas; on October 1, 1974, he switched careers and  
16 joined the magazine's staff full-time, working out of its original  
17 offices at 15th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin; and

18           WHEREAS, Mr. Burka quickly became one of the magazine's  
19 signature writers, crafting stylish and well-researched articles  
20 about Texas barbecue, the Big Bend region, the Houston Astros, the  
21 Southwest Conference, and noteworthy Texas authors; he won a  
22 National Magazine Award for a two-part story on the oil tycoon  
23 Clinton Menges in 1985, and he also won acclaim for his profile of  
24 John Connally, a cover story calling the Chevy Suburban the

1 "National Car of Texas," an insightful article about the struggles  
2 of a ranching family in Uvalde, and a moving piece about the Texas  
3 A&M bonfire tragedy; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Burka has served the magazine and  
5 its readers as a skilled editor of the work of other reporters, and  
6 he has been a mentor and an inspiration to younger writers; and

7 WHEREAS, Above all, Mr. Burka has been, for many years, one  
8 of the most knowledgeable, experienced, and influential  
9 commentators on Texas politics, sharing his encyclopedic knowledge  
10 of the Texas Legislature and its colorful history with the readers  
11 of *Texas Monthly* and the popular Burka Blog, which he started in  
12 2006, and to which he will occasionally continue to contribute; he  
13 has also regularly explained the ways of Texas and Texans to the  
14 viewers of Fox, MSNBC, NBC, and CNN, and he has inspired both fear  
15 and delight in legislators as one of the creators of the magazine's  
16 annual list of the 10 best and 10 worst legislators; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, this brilliant reporter and  
18 commentator has informed and enlightened readers of all political  
19 persuasions with his deep and affectionate understanding of the  
20 Lone Star State, and he may indeed take pride in the respect with  
21 which he is regarded by generations of his fellow Texans; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby congratulate Paul Burka on his retirement from  
25 *Texas Monthly* and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
26 success and happiness; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 2677

1 prepared for Mr. Burka as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
2 House of Representatives.

Raymond

Straus	González	Otto
Allen	Guerra	Paddie
Alonzo	Guillen	Parker
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Paul
Anchia	Harless	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Hernandez	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Herrero	Phillips
Ashby	Howard	Pickett
Aycock	Huberty	Price
Bell	Hughes	Raney
Bernal	Hunter	Raymond
Blanco	Isaac	Reynolds
Bohac	Israel	Riddle
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Rinaldi
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Travis
Burns	Keough	Romero, Jr.
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Rose
Button	King of Parker	Sanford
Canales	King of Taylor	Schaefer
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schofield
Clardy	Klick	Schubert
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Cyrier	Laubenberg	Smith
Dale	Leach	Smithee
Darby	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Dallas	Lozano	Springer
Davis of Harris	Lucio III	Stephenson
Deshotel	Márquez	Stickland
Dukes	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Dutton	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	McClendon	Tinderholt
Faircloth	Metcalf	Turner of Collin
Fallon	Meyer	Turner of Harris
Farias	Miles	Turner of Tarrant
Farney	Miller of Comal	VanDeaver
Farrar	Miller of Fort Bend	Villalba
Fletcher	Minjarez	Vo
Flynn	Moody	Walle
Frank	Morrison	White of Bell
Frullo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Galindo	Murphy	Workman
Geren	Murr	Wray
Giddings	Naishtat	Wu
Goldman	Nevárez	Zedler
Gonzales	Oliveira	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2677 was adopted by the House on May 19, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House