

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 2677

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

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