

By: Murr

H.R. No. 28

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Kerrville lost an admired citizen with  
2 the passing of Joe Benham on June 30, 2016, at the age of 82; and

3 WHEREAS, Born on March 13, 1934, to Buell and Lucille Benham  
4 in Amarillo, Joe Benham began working for the *Amarillo Times* as a  
5 sportswriter and general news reporter while still in high school,  
6 launching a career in journalism that would span 65 years; after a  
7 stint with the *Dallas Times Herald* and the Associated Press, he  
8 joined the U.S. Army and proudly served his country as an infantry  
9 platoon sergeant and air defense command public information  
10 supervisor from 1954 to 1958; and

11 WHEREAS, Following his return to civilian life, Mr. Benham  
12 was rehired by the AP in 1959, working in Austin and New York before  
13 becoming bureau chief for Chile and Bolivia in 1965; while living in  
14 Santiago, he met and married his wife, Verna, with whom he shared  
15 more than 48 rewarding years, and they were blessed with a treasured  
16 family that included two children, Stephanie and David, and four  
17 grandchildren, Dallas, Madeleine, J. B., and Dax; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Benham accepted a position with *U.S. News &*  
19 *World Report* in 1967 and spent the next 13 years covering South  
20 America from offices in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires; after  
21 returning to Texas, he worked as regional bureau chief for  
22 *U.S. News* in Houston for the following two decades; in 1998, he  
23 settled in the Hill Country, where he wrote for the *Kerrville Daily*  
24 *Times* and volunteered as a publicist for numerous nonprofit groups;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, This civic-minded Texan served as president of  
3 myriad organizations over the years, including the Symphony of the  
4 Hills Association, Friends of the Kerrville Library, and the Hill  
5 Country Chapter of the Texas Society, Sons of the American  
6 Revolution; he held a variety of other leadership positions with  
7 such groups as the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, the Hill  
8 Country Youth Orchestra, and the Kerrville Rotary Club; in  
9 recognition of his many contributions to the community, he was  
10 presented with a 2016 Life's Treasures award by the *Kerrville Daily*  
11 *Times*; and

12 WHEREAS, Deeply dedicated to his family, his profession, and  
13 his community, Joe Benham lived a life filled with meaningful  
14 achievements, and he leaves behind a legacy that will long be  
15 treasured by all those who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Joe Benham and  
18 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
19 wife, Verna Benham; to his daughter, Stephanie Benham-Dickey, and  
20 her husband, David; to his son, David Benham, and his wife, Bennet;  
21 to his grandchildren, Dallas and Madeleine Dickey and J. B. and Dax  
22 Benham; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe Benham.