

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Lisa Falkenberg of the *Houston Chronicle* received  
2 the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary; and

3           WHEREAS, A Metro section columnist since 2007,  
4 Ms. Falkenberg was honored for a series of 10 groundbreaking  
5 columns on egregious problems in the legal and immigration systems;  
6 many of the columns addressed the role of the grand jury in the  
7 death row case of Alfred Dewayne Brown, who had been convicted of  
8 murder despite the existence of exonerating evidence; her vivid  
9 reporting and powerful analysis helped lead to the overturning of  
10 the conviction and spurred changes in the selection process for  
11 grand jurors; and

12           WHEREAS, Ms. Falkenberg was born in Seguin and demonstrated  
13 an early interest in research and writing; after serving as editor  
14 of the Seguin High School student newspaper, she became the first  
15 member of her family to attend college; she began working at the  
16 *Daily Texan* while completing her bachelor's degree in journalism at  
17 The University of Texas at Austin and also held a number of  
18 internships with major news organizations; and

19           WHEREAS, In 2001, Ms. Falkenberg joined the Dallas bureau of  
20 the Associated Press, and as a regional reporter, she covered such  
21 events as the *Columbia* shuttle disaster and the deadly BP refinery  
22 explosion; she became state correspondent in the Austin bureau for  
23 the *Houston Chronicle* in 2004 and three years later, she was offered  
24 a column; her work has been recognized by numerous organizations,

1 among them the State Bar of Texas, the Mexican-American Bar  
2 Association of Texas, the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice,  
3 and Houston's Coalition for the Homeless; in 2015, she received the  
4 American Society of News Editors' Mike Royko Award for  
5 Commentary/Column Writing, and before bringing the *Chronicle* its  
6 first Pulitzer, she was a 2014 finalist; and

7 WHEREAS, Lisa Falkenberg has made a lasting, positive  
8 difference in the Lone Star State through her outstanding  
9 contributions as a journalist, and she is richly deserving of this  
10 prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Lisa Falkenberg on her receipt of  
13 the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary and extend to her sincere  
14 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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

Davis of Harris  
Howard

H.R. No. 202

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 202 was adopted by the House on  
February 23, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House