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By:  Raymond H.R. No. 2171

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Legendary Texas journalist R. G. Ratcliffe is retiring from *Texas Monthly* magazine in 2019, drawing to a close a remarkable four-decade career covering state and national politics; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Dallas, Robert Gary Ratcliffe first saw his name in print at the age of five, when he got behind the wheel of his mother's car and drove it into a house, an episode that became a national wire service story; he subsequently focused on covering the news rather than making it, and he honed his skills as a student radio reporter at the University of Missouri while earning a degree in journalism and American history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ratcliffe spent the early years of his career in Georgia and Florida, and it was during that period that he developed an interest in political journalism after conducting investigative reporting on elected officials who took bribes from Colombian drug lords; he also covered the trial of serial killer Ted Bundy for the *Florida Times-Union*; returning to Texas, he worked briefly in the Arlington bureau of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* before relocating to Austin; after initially covering events in the capital city for the *Star-Telegram*, he spent 24 years as a reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*; in 2011, he started writing for *Texas Monthly*, and he joined the magazine's permanent staff in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his 40 years in journalism, Mr. Ratcliffe has covered six Texas governors, from Bill Clements to Greg Abbott, as well as every national presidential race from 1988 to 2008; along the way, he also reported on the 1985 Mexico City earthquake, chronicled the tectonic shift from Democratic to Republican dominance in Texas politics, and authored an investigative story about University of Texas management company investments that has been used in teaching journalism classes at Columbia University; he even got to enjoy a moment in the limelight when he was featured in the HBO documentary *Journeys with George*, about the 2000 presidential campaign; and

WHEREAS, By dedicating himself to the mission of holding elected officials accountable for their actions, R. G. Ratcliffe has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the best political reporters in Texas and throughout the nation, and his sharp intellect, keen insight, and dry wit will be greatly missed by all those who have had the good fortune to appreciate his work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate R. G. Ratcliffe on his retirement from *Texas Monthly* and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

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