

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 2171

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Over the course of his 40 years in journalism,  
24 Mr. Ratcliffe has covered six Texas governors, from Bill Clements

1 to Greg Abbott, as well as every national presidential race from  
2 1988 to 2008; along the way, he also reported on the 1985 Mexico  
3 City earthquake, chronicled the tectonic shift from Democratic to  
4 Republican dominance in Texas politics, and authored an  
5 investigative story about University of Texas management company  
6 investments that has been used in teaching journalism classes at  
7 Columbia University; he even got to enjoy a moment in the limelight  
8 when he was featured in the HBO documentary *Journeys with George*,  
9 about the 2000 presidential campaign; and

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

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

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