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By:  Morrison H.R. No. 544

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The *Victoria Advocate* is marking the 175th anniversary of its founding in 2021; and

WHEREAS, On May 8, 1846, the *Texan Advocate* made its debut, and that very day, it published an extra edition to notify residents of the battle of Palo Alto, the first engagement of the Mexican-American War; the name was soon changed to *Texian Advocate* at the behest of pioneers; in the early days, the paper was delivered by horseback to readers in places as far away as Gonzales, New Braunfels, and San Antonio; it gained a new means of distribution when Victoria became the headquarters for three stagecoach lines; sometime between 1859 and 1861, the present-day name was adopted; and

WHEREAS, Morris Roberts purchased the paper in 1942 with other leading citizens and bought up all the stock 19 years later; eventually, he shared ownership with his son, John M. Roberts, and daughter, Catherine R. "Kay" McHaney; Morris Roberts remained active in the community and the company and continued to serve as chair of the board until his death in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Parent company M. Roberts Media has grown in recent years with the acquisition of newspapers in Longview, Tyler, Marshall, Panola, and Kilgore; while John M. Roberts is retired as president and publisher, Mrs. McHaney still serves as secretary-treasurer; the third generation is represented by the current president and publisher, Stephen McHaney, and chair of the board, Gordon McHaney; since the launch of its website in 1999, the *Advocate* has steadily developed its digital presence, and today, the second-oldest newspaper in Texas has subscribers all over the world; and

WHEREAS, The *Victoria Advocate* has played a vital role in the lives of countless people over the course of its rich history, serving as a valued source of information and connecting readers to their community, and its continued existence is a tribute to the enduring commitment to excellence of its owners and staff; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the *Victoria Advocate* on its 175th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the paper sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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