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By:  Dean H.R. No. 725

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The *Longview News-Journal* received 13 awards from the North and East Texas Press Association at its annual convention in Rockwall on April 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the *News-Journal* competes in the large daily classification alongside such newspapers as the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, *Lufkin Daily News*, and *Texarkana Gazette*; work honored this year was published during 2020; and

WHEREAS, *News-Journal* photographer Les Hassell captured first place in feature photo for an image of a wedding inside a local hospital and another of an assisted living facility resident; taking first place in editorial writing were former *News-Journal* editor Ric Brack and former associate editor Phil Latham, for pieces about Gregg County's Confederate statue and the lack of transparency in disclosing COVID-19 cases at nursing homes; Mr. Latham also received top honors in column writing; former sports writer Hayden Henry earned first place in his category for stories about the rising popularity of pickleball and about high school athletes trying to stay in shape during school shutdowns; and

WHEREAS, Jo Lee Ferguson, a columnist and writer, was the runner-up for Journalist of the Year and also took second place in feature writing for a piece about a COVID-19 survivor; in addition, managing editor Randy Ferguson received a second place award for a story on Mother's Day celebrations during the pandemic; the sports staff received second place for its coverage of high school football; and

WHEREAS, The newspaper as a whole achieved third place in Sweepstakes, for total points accumulated in all categories, as well as in General Excellence; moreover, Randy Ferguson received third place in headline writing and shared third place in page design with Mr. Henry; Michael Cavazos and Mr. Hassell each won third place recognition in the sports photo category, and Mr. Cavazos received another third place in the news photo division; and

WHEREAS, Committed to informing, enlightening, and entertaining readers, the staff of the *Longview News-Journal* have distinguished themselves through their skill and dedication, earning the respect and admiration of their peers and the public alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the *Longview News-Journal* on its receipt of 13 awards from the North and East Texas Press Association; and, be it further

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