

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Parent company M. Roberts Media has grown in recent
20 years with the acquisition of newspapers in Longview, Tyler,
21 Marshall, Panola, and Kilgore; while John M. Roberts is retired as
22 president and publisher, Mrs. McHaney still serves as
23 secretary-treasurer; the third generation is represented by the
24 current president and publisher, Stephen McHaney, and chair of the

1 board, Gordon McHaney; since the launch of its website in 1999, the
2 *Advocate* has steadily developed its digital presence, and today,
3 the second-oldest newspaper in Texas has subscribers all over the
4 world; and

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

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

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

Morrison

H.R. No. 544

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 544 was adopted by the House on April 16, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House