

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 544

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.