By: Cole H.R. No. 26

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Tommie Lee Wyatt, an esteemed journalist and a dedicated advocate for Austin's Black community, passed away on January 9, 2026, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, T. L. Wyatt was born in Point Blank on July 27, 1937, to Ardalia Standifer; he came of age during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, and those years shaped his lifelong commitment to the values of justice and community and belief in the power of sharing stories; he earned a scholarship to play football at Bishop College in Marshall, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration; answering his nation's call to duty, he served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War in the early 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wyatt moved to Austin in 1962, and he made a home for himself on the city's east side; in 1973, he cofounded *The Villager* newspaper to serve as a voice for the area's Black residents, and under his able leadership, the publication covered a wide range of topics, from stories about local neighborhoods and families to articles calling attention to important policy issues; he further distinguished himself through his work on his magazine, *Loquacity*, and the KAZI radio station; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Wyatt served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Private Industry Council, the Austin Cable Commission, and the East 11th Street Village Association; he was also a founding member of the Texas

Publishers Association, and he was involved in the National Newspaper Publishers Association; in addition, he launched the Youth Brigade to help support the education of children, and he helped to secure resources for those in need through partnerships with major corporations, the Austin City Council, and the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, During his leisure hours, Mr. Wyatt enjoyed playing golf and traveling; he is survived by his son, Thomas, and his granddaughter and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Although T. L. Wyatt's death has brought great sorrow to those who loved him, his life was an inspiring example of the good that one person can accomplish; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Tommie Lee Wyatt and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of T. L. Wyatt.