

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 19

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A team of editorial writers from the *Dallas Morning*
2 *News* has won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing; and

3 WHEREAS, The award recognizes editorial writing that
4 exhibits "clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning, and
5 power to influence public opinion in what the writer conceives to be
6 the right direction"; in addition, the *Morning News* was commended
7 for its "relentless editorials deploring the stark social and
8 economic disparity between the city's better-off northern half and
9 distressed southern half"; and

10 WHEREAS, Beginning in 2007, *Dallas Morning News* editorial
11 writers Tod Robberson, Colleen McCain Nelson, and William McKenzie,
12 along with other members of the paper's editorial board, embarked
13 on an intensive and ongoing campaign called "Bridging Dallas'
14 North-South Gap"; the purpose was to call attention to and advocate
15 for the part of the city south of Interstate 30 and the Trinity
16 River, which they observed "has been corroding for decades"; and

17 WHEREAS, The team spent months immersing itself in this
18 impoverished, neglected area, interviewing community leaders,
19 business owners, and residents, touring neighborhoods, and
20 participating in seminars, roundtable discussions, and town hall
21 meetings; along the way, they used the editorial page to explain why
22 North Dallas residents need to care about the southern half of their
23 city, and they also strived to give voice to South Dallas residents;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Since then, Mr. Robberson, Ms. Nelson, and Mr.
2 McKenzie have highlighted a range of issues plaguing South Dallas,
3 including blighted property, absentee landowners, joblessness
4 among males, teenage pregnancy, and high dropout rates; among the
5 editorials submitted for review to the Pulitzer Prize Board were
6 "Bleak House," about boarded-up South Dallas homes and their
7 negligent owners and "Not a One-Man Job" about the lack of adequate
8 support for Paul Quinn College; and

9 WHEREAS, An especially noteworthy component of the Bridging
10 the Gap campaign is the monthly editorial "10 Drops in the Bucket,"
11 a list of persistent problems that cause stress for southern Dallas
12 residents; these pieces have been instrumental in spurring the city
13 to action on the demolition of notoriously crime-ridden motels and
14 empty, burned-out houses; moreover, editorial writers supported
15 six pieces of legislation during the 2009 legislative session, and
16 three of them passed; and

17 WHEREAS, Tod Robberson, Colleen McCain Nelson, and William
18 McKenzie, backed by *Morning News* publisher Jim Moroney, editor Bob
19 Mong, vice president and editorial page editor Keven Ann Willey,
20 deputy editorial page editor Sharon Grigsby, and members of the
21 editorial board, have set an outstanding example of editorial
22 writing, and their efforts have contributed significantly to the
23 betterment of South Dallas and the entire city; now, therefore, be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
26 Legislature hereby congratulate the editorial writers of the *Dallas*
27 *Morning News* on winning the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for editorial

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1 writing and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued
2 success; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
4 for Mr. Robberson, Ms. Nelson, and Mr. McKenzie as an expression of
5 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.