

By: Representative Scoggin

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND HIGHLY ACCLAIMED
2 SERVICE OF MR. MARK THORNTON AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE *LAUREL*
3 *LEADER-CALL* UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT ON MARCH 5, 2025.

4 WHEREAS, for nearly two decades, Mark Thornton has served as
5 the Editor-in-Chief of the *Laurel Leader-Call*, demonstrating an
6 unwavering commitment to journalistic excellence, integrity and
7 community service; and

8 WHEREAS, under Mr. Thornton's leadership, the *Laurel*
9 *Leader-Call* has been recognized for its exceptional journalism,
10 earning numerous awards, including General Excellence from the
11 Mississippi Press Association and multiple first-place accolades
12 in the Better Newspaper Contest; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton's dedication to investigative
14 journalism has been recognized through his receipt of the
15 prestigious Bill Minor Prize for General News Reporting,
16 showcasing his commitment to uncovering the truth and keeping the
17 public informed; and



18 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Thornton has been an
19 advocate for responsible journalism, exemplified by his fearless
20 reporting on critical local issues, his mentorship of aspiring
21 journalists, and his steadfast devotion to the principles of a
22 free and fair press; and

23 WHEREAS, his exemplary work ethic, dedication to the truth
24 and willingness to go beyond the call of duty – including
25 reporting from a hospital bed following a near-fatal accident –
26 serve as a testament to his passion for journalism and the impact
27 he has had on the industry; and

28 WHEREAS, the residents of Jones County and beyond have
29 greatly benefited from his thoughtful, comprehensive and
30 compassionate coverage of local events, public affairs and
31 community issues; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton's departure from the *Laurel Leader-Call*
33 marks the end of an era in local journalism, leaving behind a
34 legacy that will be difficult to match, as he is widely regarded
35 as one of the most talented and dedicated journalists in
36 Mississippi history; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
38 recognize and commend outstanding Mississippians of Mr. Thornton's
39 prestige who have made significant contributions to the betterment
40 of their communities and the State of Mississippi, as evidenced by
41 the years of dedicated service to its citizens:



42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
44 commend and honor Mr. Mark Thornton upon the occasion of his
45 retirement, express our gratitude for his invaluable contributions
46 to the field of journalism, and extend best wishes for success,
47 happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Mr. Mark Thornton, the *Laurel Leader-Call* and to the
50 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

