

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.

