

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dennis Woltering, long-time WWL-TV Channel 4 newscast anchor and reporter in New Orleans, upon his retirement after more than thirty years as one of the city's most respected television news journalists.

WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Woltering studied journalism, political science, and constitutional law at Oregon State University before earning his master's degree in journalism and communications at American University in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woltering's first job at a small station in Fargo, North Dakota, as a weekend anchor and reporter gave him the opportunity to learn everything about preparing television newscasts, both behind and in front of the camera; and

WHEREAS, the leap to major market broadcast journalism occurred for Mr. Woltering in 1977 when WWL-TV in New Orleans hired him as a reporter and weekend anchor, a job that honed his journalistic skills as he covered stories on politics, government, and corruption in Louisiana and Central America, environmental issues, and the state's foster care system; and

WHEREAS, among the more famous news stories Mr. Woltering brought to New Orleanians during his career at Channel 4 were the New Orleans police strike of 1979, which caused the cancellation of Mardi Gras parades that year; the crash of Pan Am Flight 759 in 1982, which he reported live from the south Kenner neighborhood leveled by the disaster; and real-time, continuous coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, for which he and the WWL-TV news team earned the prestigious George Foster Peabody, duPont-Columbia, and Edward R. Murrow awards; and

1 WHEREAS, while Mr. Woltering was able to expand his journalistic horizons by
2 accepting a job in the larger Philadelphia TV news market in 1984, he and his family missed
3 the sights and sounds of the south, and ten years later, he was called by WWL-TV to return
4 to New Orleans; Mr. Woltering answered that call, resuming his reputation for detailed news
5 investigations by covering stories on contractor fraud, restaurant inspections, school bus
6 drivers, a chemical leak in Bogalusa, EMS response time, and the Pope's visit to Cuba; and

7 WHEREAS, the gift Mr. Woltering displayed for both hard-edged reporting and
8 compassionate storytelling will be sorely missed with his departure from the anchor desk at
9 WWL-TV upon his retirement on May 30, 2014, and his pursuit of integrity in newscasts
10 leaves a standard of excellence for any who would sit in the news anchor chair after him.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dennis Woltering for more than thirty years
13 of outstanding news reporting in the city of New Orleans for WWL-TV and does hereby
14 extend to him best wishes for a long and happy life of retirement.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
16 to Mr. Dennis Woltering.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES