

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Dennis Woltering upon his retirement from WWL-TV in New Orleans as a newscast anchor and reporter

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, among the more famous news stories Mr. Woltering brought to New
18 Orleanians during his career at Channel 4 were the New Orleans police strike of 1979, which
19 caused the cancellation of Mardi Gras parades that year; the crash of Pan Am Flight 759 in
20 1982, which he reported live from the south Kenner neighborhood leveled by the disaster;
21 and real-time, continuous coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, for which he and the

1 WWL-TV news team earned the prestigious George Foster Peabody, duPont-Columbia, and
2 Edward R. Murrow awards; and

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

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR No. 174

Commends Dennis Woltering upon his retirement from WWL-TV in New Orleans after 30 years as a newscast anchor and reporter.