

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1029

By: Kirby

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising and commending the television, radio and print news media in the State of Oklahoma for their exceptional coverage of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19; expressing pride in Oklahoma news media; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m., the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was the target of a cowardly terrorist bomb attack that destroyed the building, damaged dozens of buildings in the downtown area, and killed or wounded hundreds of persons; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon feeling the blast that shook the entire metro area, television, radio and print reporters converged on the Murrah building in order to keep a horrified state informed of the unfolding tragedy; and

WHEREAS, the news media in Oklahoma became the eyes and ears for the entire world as the extent of this tragedy became known; and

WHEREAS, local television and radio reporters made almost constant live feeds to media outlets across the nation about the bomb, search and recovery efforts, and the investigation; and

WHEREAS, for several days, Oklahoma television and radio stations preempted regular programming to broadcast continually, forgoing untold thousands of dollars in advertising money in order

to keep the state, nation and world informed about this unparalleled tragedy; and

WHEREAS, literally hundreds of Oklahoma journalists from both the print and broadcast media have upheld the highest calling of journalists during this tragedy, which is the solemn obligation to keep the public informed; and

WHEREAS, while some so-called "journalists" employed by the tabloid press sought to capitalize on this tragedy, Oklahoma reporters maintained a calm demeanor, stuck to the facts, and respected the emotions of those traumatized by this cowardly attack; and

WHEREAS, virtually every media outlet in Oklahoma went above and beyond the call of duty to collect relief supplies and keep the public informed about what was needed by rescue and recovery workers and the relief organizations; and

WHEREAS, individual reporters worked long, hard and demanding hours to keep Oklahomans informed, placing their duty to inform the public above their own safety, well-being, and interests; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives, on behalf of a grateful state, appreciates the professional, dedicated and respectful coverage of this tragedy by the state media.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the television, radio and print news media in the State of Oklahoma are hereby praised and commended for their exceptional, outstanding and professional coverage of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby expresses its pride in Oklahoma's news media outlets for their outstanding efforts during this tragedy that has touched us all.

THAT duly authenticated copies hereof be transmitted to the Oklahoma Press Association and the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

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