

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30436-LG-190 (07/23)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield, Tarleton, Dickson, Jones (Primary Sponsors); and Wilkins.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WALTER LELAND  
2 CRONKITE, JR., FORMER ANCHOR AND JOURNALIST.

3 Whereas, Walter Leland Cronkite, Jr., was born on November 4, 1916, in St.  
4 Joseph, Missouri, to Dr. Walter Leland Cronkite, Sr., and Helena Lena Fritsch Cronkite; and

5 Whereas, Walter Cronkite's family moved to Houston, Texas, when he was a young  
6 boy; and

7 Whereas, in 1933, at the age of 16, Walter Cronkite enrolled at the University of  
8 Texas at Austin and took courses in political science, economics, and journalism; and

9 Whereas, Walter Cronkite left college early to become a general reporter for the  
10 Houston Post and later held several other jobs in media, including serving as a sports  
11 announcer; and

12 Whereas, in 1939, Walter Cronkite began working for the United Press news agency  
13 (now United Press International), covering stories from Houston, Austin, Dallas, El Paso,  
14 Kansas City, and New York City; and

15 Whereas, Walter Cronkite served as a war correspondent during World War II from  
16 1942 to 1945, as the chief correspondent during the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and as the  
17 bureau manager in Moscow from 1946 to 1948; and

18 Whereas, in 1950, Walter Cronkite was recruited by Edward R. Murrow to join  
19 CBS, where he found success and gained popularity as the narrator of several television  
20 programs, including "You Are There" and "The Twentieth Century"; and

21 Whereas, in 1952, Walter Cronkite covered the Democratic and Republican national  
22 presidential conventions for CBS and went on to cover every national political convention, with  
23 the exception of the 1964 Democratic convention, until his retirement from the network; and

24 Whereas, in 1962, Walter Cronkite became the anchor and editor for the CBS  
25 Evening News, which later was named the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite; and

26 Whereas, according to an independent national poll in 1972, Walter Cronkite was  
27 considered "the most trusted man in America"; and

28 Whereas, Walter Cronkite retired as the anchor of the CBS Evening News in 1981  
29 and thereafter served as a producer and narrator for several television specials, series, and  
30 documentaries; and

31 Whereas, Walter Cronkite published his autobiography, "A Reporter's Life" in 1996;  
32 and

33 Whereas, Walter Cronkite received many awards and honors, including two  
34 Peabody Awards, several Emmy Awards, and honorary degrees from American International  
35 College, Harvard University, Rollins College, Bucknell University, Syracuse University, and



1 Ohio State University and was the recipient of the William A. White Award for journalistic  
2 merit in 1969, the George Polk Journalism Award in 1971, the Gold Medal from the  
3 International Radio and Television Society in 1974, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University  
4 Award in Broadcast Journalism in 1978, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981, and the  
5 News World International's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003; and

6       Whereas, Walter Cronkite's many achievements in journalism and news editing  
7 were recognized by Arizona State University, which named its journalism school The Walter  
8 Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication in his honor; and

9       Whereas, Walter Cronkite was married for over 64 years to Mary Elizabeth "Betsy"  
10 Maxwell, who died in 2005; and

11       Whereas, Walter Cronkite died on July 17, 2009, at the age of 92; and

12       Whereas, Walter Cronkite is survived by his son, Walter Leland "Chip" Cronkite,  
13 III; two daughters, Nancy Elizabeth Cronkite and Mary Kathleen Cronkite; and four grandsons;  
14 Now, therefore,

15 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

16       **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Walter Cronkite, one  
17 of this country's greatest and most accomplished journalists, and expresses the appreciation of  
18 this State and its citizens for the contributions he made to journalism.

19       **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of  
20 Walter Cronkite for the loss of a beloved family member.

21       **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
22 resolution to the family of Walter Cronkite.

23       **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.