

HOUSE RESOLUTION 249

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to honor Andrea Zelinski for her many contributions to good journalism on Capitol Hill.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that this body says goodbye to a reporter who, in the words of Jim Ridley, "has provided wise counsel, a voice of reason, reliable depth of knowledge and insight, and outstanding news judgment" during her tenure on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Zelinski, *Nashville Scene* news editor and political reporter for both the *Nashville Post* and the *Scene*, is leaving the friendly confines of Nashville to embark upon a new assignment with the *Houston Chronicle*, for which she will cover the Texas legislature in Austin; and

WHEREAS, as a young reporter, Ms. Zelinski covered the Illinois legislature for the Associated Press, which placed her front and center for the impeachment proceedings of Governor Rod Blagojevich, an assignment about which she still loves to reminisce; and

WHEREAS, she was a one-woman bureau covering state politics for TNReport.com and covered politics and education at *The City Paper* prior to coming to the *Scene*; and

WHEREAS, renowned as "an indefatigable, tenacious reporter with an extraordinary news sense and impeccable judgment," Andrea Zelinski covered Nashville politics and education with exceptional skill, and especially the mayoral race and the school board's superintendent search; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Zelinski won an Association of Alternative News Media award for her three-part series on the troubles facing Metro Nashville schools, which depicted the inner workings of the politics surrounding the school system; and

WHEREAS, since assuming her current roles with the *Scene* and the *Post*, Ms. Zelinski has kept a watchful and skeptical eye on the General Assembly and was honored to be called "the meanest woman" one legislator had ever met; and

WHEREAS, as Tennessee Capitol Press Corps chair, Andrea Zelinski took on Governor Haslam's office for hiding select public events from his schedule; Governor Haslam still likes her more than her Fourth Estate colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Zelinski's early adoption of newfangled technologies such as live tweeting, livestreaming video, and various web apps left many of her Luddite colleagues perplexed and chagrined; and

WHEREAS, after breaking her leg, Andrea Zelinski claimed the injury was the result of a softball mishap, but some among the Capitol Hill Press Corps speculated that the broken bone was the result of her hard-hitting coverage; and

WHEREAS, fondly called "General Z" by El Jefe, Ms. Zelinski presently serves as president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Middle Tennessee Chapter; and

WHEREAS, she is fortunate to share love, respect, and companionship with her husband, Patrick O'Brien, a high school teacher, and their dogs, Vuda and Buster; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Zelinski arrives in Austin to cover the Texas legislature, this body expects her to have as much historical impact on the Lone Star State as other revered Volunteer State heroes, such as Davy Crockett and Sam Houston, who over the course of Texas's history have repeatedly been forced to help pull Texans' fat out of the fire; and

WHEREAS, as she ends this "meaningful chapter" in her life and departs for the Lone Star State, we wish Andrea Zelinski all the best in her new assignment with the *Houston Chronicle*; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Andrea Zelinski for her many contributions to good journalism on Capitol Hill, commend her exemplary

work with the *Nashville Scene*, *Nashville Post*, and *The City Paper*, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.