



HR0453

LRB098 12397 MST 46782 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Chicago Tribune
4 reporter David Jackson on receiving the Education Writers's
5 Award for his series with Gary Marx on truancy; and

6 WHEREAS, The Education Writers Association has given a top
7 award to a 2012 Chicago Tribune series that used internal
8 Chicago attendance data to reveal a devastating pattern of
9 school absences in grades K-8 that disproportionately affects
10 African-American youth and children with disabilities; while
11 Chicago officials for years published upbeat attendance
12 statistics, the newspaper found roughly 32,000 elementary
13 students missed at least a month of classes in a year, while
14 thousands more simply vanished from the attendance rolls; and

15 WHEREAS, Chosen from among hundreds of submissions across
16 the country, the series won first prize for investigative
17 reporting among large newspapers; and

18 WHEREAS, Days after the publication of the series in
19 November 2012, State lawmakers began working on reforms aimed
20 at saving thousands of children from isolation and failure; and

21 WHEREAS, David Jackson has been with the Chicago Tribune

1 since 1991, except for one year with The Washington Post, where
2 he shared in a 1999 Pulitzer Prize; he has been a Pulitzer
3 finalist 3 times; his articles have prompted congressional
4 hearings, law enforcement indictments, and legislative reform;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, David Jackson has investigated Illinois nursing
7 homes, which led to sweeping changes in how they are run,
8 mortgage fraud, exposing the link between gang members and the
9 real estate industry, the coal mining industry, exposing
10 numerous safety violations, school food illness outbreaks, and
11 the connection between some of Chicago's top cops and crime
12 syndicate figures; and

13 WHEREAS, David Jackson has won the Medill Medal for Courage
14 in Journalism; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we recognize Chicago Tribune reporter David Jackson on
18 receiving the Education Writers's Award for his series with
19 Gary Marx on truancy and thank him for his efforts in
20 investigative journalism to uncover those stories that need to
21 be told; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to David Jackson as an expression of our esteem and
2 respect.