

By: Representative A. Collins

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER BRENT RENAUD AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND
FILMMAKING.

Subtitle

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HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS AND FILMMAKING.

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud was born on October 2, 1971, in Memphis, Tennessee, and died on March 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud was killed in Ukraine when Russian troops opened fire, according to Andriy Nebytov, the head of Kyiv's regional police force; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote: "A talented and brave journalist, Brent lost his life while documenting human tragedy, devastation, and suffering of millions of Ukrainians."; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud was a loving son, brother, uncle, friend, and award-winning documentary filmmaker who grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud graduated from Hall High School, received his undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and a master's degree from Columbia University in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Brent with his younger brother Craig, known as the Renaud



Brothers, co-founded 501 Films, a small film company that won many national and international awards for their documentaries about human suffering around the world; and

WHEREAS, Brent and Craig also co-founded the Little Rock Film Festival and the Arkansas Motion Picture Institute; and

WHEREAS, Brent and Craig made films for HBO, NBC, Discovery, PBS, The New York Times, VICE News, and others, and their film, "Last Chance High," an eight-part series for VICE Media won a Peabody Award, the most prestigious prize broadcast journalists can receive; and

WHEREAS, Brent and Craig, in collaboration with Christof Putzel, won a DuPont-Columbia Award for "Vanguard: Arming the Mexican Cartel", and when Christof Putzel learned of his close friend's death, he told WGBH Boston: "Brent had courage like nobody I've ever seen, yet at the same time had this heart to go in where he knew he was needed, and he was so incredibly careful and focused. I don't know many people who can do that."; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud was known as quiet, humble, brilliant, kind, and a hardworking filmmaker; and

WHEREAS, Brent was a Neiman Fellow in 2019 at Harvard University and Neiman curator Ann Marie Lipinski said: "Brent's filmmaking was exceptional and what made it so was not just his abundant skill but a kindness and deep humanity he brought to his work. He told us that what he sought in his journalism was thoughtful stories about disenfranchised people, and he lived up to that credo every day. His death is a devastating loss"; and

WHEREAS, at Harvard University, Brent studied the effects of trauma and mental and emotional illness on rates of poverty and violence in America; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud was a visiting distinguished professor for the Center for Ethics in Journalism at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2019; and

WHEREAS, "Brent Renaud [was] widely respected as a photojournalist and documentary filmmaker," said Larry Foley, chair of the University of Arkansas School of Journalism and Strategic Media; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud's 2015 short documentary "Between Borders: American Migrant Crisis", helped bring a new level of awareness to the youth migrant crisis in Central America, and his award-winning 2018 feature film "Shelter" has raised millions of dollars to combat the youth homeless crisis in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Raymond McCaffrey, director of the Center for Ethics in Journalism, said that Brent Renaud possessed unique journalistic skills that are especially valuable in today's changing media environment and he considered Brent "especially qualified to teach students about the power of multimedia journalism as well as the ethical challenges that journalists can face when using new technology to help report the news"; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the many contributions Brent Renaud brought to Arkansas and the filmmaking industry, Brent's family and friends started the Brent Renaud Foundation as a means of continuing his vision; and

WHEREAS, Brent Renaud sacrificed his life to bring awareness of the war in Ukraine, and his loss will never be forgotten,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives remember Brent Renaud for his service and dedication to the State of Arkansas and the filmmaking industry and extend sincere condolences to the family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Brent Renaud's family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.