

1 WHEREAS, he expanded all of the bureaus to enhance the individuality of the local
2 news in suburban centers, such as Algiers, New Orleans East, Harahan, Gretna, Kenner,
3 Lakefront, Marrero, Metairie, Midtown, Uptown, Westwego, the River Parishes, St. Bernard,
4 and north of Lake Pontchartrain to include Covington, Mandeville, and Slidell; and

5 WHEREAS, his creativity and dedication have resulted in a constant Number One
6 national ranking among publications in its market demographic; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1992, at his alma mater, Tulane University Law School, the Phelps
8 Lecture Series was established to honor the legacy of his father, Ashton Phelps Sr. and
9 remains dedicated to the application and preservation of First Amendment rights and related
10 fields of constitutional law; and

11 WHEREAS, during his tenure, The Times-Picayune garnered four Pulitzer Prizes,
12 in 1997, one Pulitzer for "Oceans of Trouble", an analysis of the threatened global fish
13 supply and a second for editorial cartooning; in 2005, receipt of a Pulitzer for news coverage
14 during Hurricane Katrina, plus the George Polk Award for Metropolitan Reporting, as well
15 as two more Pulitzer Prizes in 2006; and

16 WHEREAS, for over three decades, Ashton Phelps has handled high-profile stories
17 and editorial topics with quiet aplomb; however, Mr. Phelps, The Times-Picayune, and the
18 city of New Orleans itself, will forever be defined by the events of August 2005, and the
19 aftermath that continues to this day, when Hurricane Katrina knocked the city to its knees;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Ashton Phelps, along with reporters and employees, remained in place
22 for forty-eight hours to capture many of the historic details in images and print and to
23 continue to report the news during this catastrophe, a precious touchstone for a region in
24 perilous straits; evacuated to Baton Rouge in the back of delivery trucks, The
25 Times-Picayune personnel maintained a continuous stream of vital information, either via
26 Internet or publications temporarily printed in Baton Rouge, until six weeks later, when the
27 Howard Avenue presses rolled again; Times-Picayune was one of the first businesses to
28 resume operations; and

29 WHEREAS, the population of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana
30 owe a debt of gratitude to Ashton Phelps for his years of leadership as publisher of the

1 New Orleans Times-Picayune, for his many contributions to the betterment of this state, and
2 his continued efforts to preserve America's First Amendment rights of freedom of speech
3 and of the press.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 commend and congratulate Ashton Phelps Jr. upon his retirement as publisher of the
6 New Orleans Times-Picayune and as president of The Times-Picayune Publishing
7 Corporation.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby wish
9 for him continued success in his future endeavors.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
11 Ashton Phelps Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

Morrell

SCR No.

Commends Ashton Phelps Jr. publisher of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, upon his
retirement from the newspaper.