

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEABAUGH AND CARMODY

A RESOLUTION

To commend posthumously R.W. "Buzzy" Graham of Alexandria, former state representative and delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1973.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives learned of the death of R.W. "Buzzy" Graham, former state representative from Alexandria, on Friday, December 19, 2014, at the age of seventy-seven, and it is appropriate that he be commended posthumously for his tremendous contributions to the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana, R.W. "Buzzy" Graham, son of the late Bess and Warren Graham, took his first breath as a legendary Louisianian; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Mr. Graham graduated from Bolton High School, and he earned a bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity, in 1959; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from LSU, Mr. Graham enlisted in the United States Army National Guard, where he attained the rank of captain; and

WHEREAS, from 1968 until 1972, Mr. Graham, one of the youngest legislators in the state at that time, served a highly effective term as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, using every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve his constituency in Grant Parish and Rapides Parish and all citizens of the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham steadfastly endeavored to improve the welfare of his fellow citizens, and his legislative accomplishments were numerous; he served with diligence as a member of the House Committee on Insurance, the House Committee on Judiciary A, and the House Committee on Public Works and Institutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham was a proud member of the group of legislators known as the "Young Turks" who were determined to rid the legislature of its antiquated ways and bring it into the twentieth century and who were dubbed as such by a reporter in reference to the leaders of a Turkish revolt who reformed the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, upon the completion of his legislative service, Mr. Graham served in the administration of Governor Edwin Edwards as his executive secretary; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1973, Mr. Graham was appointed by Governor Edwards as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1973, and he contributed significantly to constitutional revisions that greatly furthered the authority of the legislature as a coequal branch of government; he also served as president of the nonprofit group Committee for the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham's name is etched into the annals of convention history in a verse of a memorable song penned by Moise W. Dennery, convention secretary, and sung on the final day of the convention to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne": *Judge Albert Tate goes to the mike / To speak of draft and style / As Graham, Gravel, and Robert Pugh / All visit in each aisle*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham remained in the insurance business until his retirement as vice chairman of Risk Services of Louisiana, and he was an active member of his community through his participation with the Alexandria Jaycees and the Alexandria/Pineville Chamber of Commerce, as a Shriner, and as a member of the Kiwanis Club, the LSU Alumni Association, and the Masonic Lodge, where he was a past Master of Oliver Lodge No. 84; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham was also an avid hunter, fisherman, scuba diver, and pilot, and he shared many wonderful moments at his camp, Catfish Point Club, in Greenville, Mississippi, with friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham's beloved wife of fifty-five years, Carol Parker Graham, passed away on Easter eve in 2016; he is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Ginger

Niemann and her husband John, Leslie Letbetter, Piper Glasgow and her husband Ray, and Peyton Mayeaux and her husband James; ten grandchildren, Ashton Niemann Keller (Zane), Chip Niemann, Kendall Niemann, Ashley Letbetter Green (Trey), Evans Glasgow, Braden Glasgow, Emily Glasgow, Thomas Mayeaux, Graham Mayeaux, and Maxfield Mayeaux; one great granddaughter, Chloe Grace Green; his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Larry and Graham and his wife Peggy; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham will forever be respected and remembered by his fellow citizens for his singular contributions and for his steadfast commitment to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend posthumously former state representative R.W. "Buzzy" Graham of Alexandria, does hereby recognize that he will forever be remembered, respected, and admired by the many citizens whose lives he touched, including members of the legislative family who still mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and the legislative institution so well, and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1973.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of R.W. "Buzzy" Graham.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES