

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

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

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Graham's beloved wife of fifty-five years, Carol Parker Graham,
2 passed away on Easter eve in 2016; he is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Ginger
3 Niemann and her husband John, Leslie Letbetter, Piper Glasgow and her husband Ray, and
4 Peyton Mayeaux and her husband James; ten grandchildren, Ashton Niemann Keller (Zane),
5 Chip Niemann, Kendall Niemann, Ashley Letbetter Green (Trey), Evans Glasgow, Braden
6 Glasgow, Emily Glasgow, Thomas Mayeaux, Graham Mayeaux, and Maxfield Mayeaux;
7 one great granddaughter, Chloe Grace Green; his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Larry and
8 Graham and his wife Peggy; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 124 Original

2016 Regular Session

Seabaugh

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