

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 672

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John D. Graham of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John D. Graham; and

WHEREAS, John D. Graham was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on January 13, 1926, in Birmingham, Alabama, John Graham moved to Jackson at the age of eleven and graduated from Jackson High School in 1944; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's greatest generation, Mr. Graham proudly served in the United States Navy as a radio operator in the Pacific Theatre during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Graham graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in journalism and became sports editor of *The Jackson Sun* in 1953. He also coached youth basketball and baseball, and his work as an assistant manager of Jackson's 1954 Babe Ruth team helped them win state and regional championships and finish runner-up in the World Series in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of his father in 1954, Mr. Graham prematurely ended his journalism career to inherit control of his family's business, Graham Snack Foods; and

WHEREAS, an astute and dedicated community leader, Mr. Graham earned the respect of his peers and the citizens he served for the exemplary quality of his work as a Madison County commissioner and as councilman for the City of Jackson at different points in his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham served his community with acumen and alacrity as the chairman of the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital board of trustees and co-chair of the

Jackson-Madison County Schools Consolidation Committee. He also served as chairman of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and worked more than ten years on the development of Lake Madison, which was renamed Lake Graham in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of sixty years, Faye Winstead; their children, David, Chris, Levian, Greg, and Linda; and twelve grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, John Graham leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John D. Graham, extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.