

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 434

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and rewarding life came to a close with the
2 passing of John Studer Graves of Uvalde on October 25, 2004, at the
3 age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on August 17, 1918, Jack Graves attended Uvalde
5 High School and excelled in academics, athletics, and the arts;
6 following his graduation as valedictorian in 1936, he enrolled in
7 The University of Texas Architecture School; and

8 WHEREAS, His college experience was equally impressive; the
9 recipient of numerous awards and an honors graduate, Mr. Graves
10 served as president of Tau Sigma Delta and was a member of the
11 Sphinx Society and Alpha Rho Chi before earning his diploma in 1941;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Answering his country's call to serve, Mr. Graves
14 joined the U.S. Navy's Photographic Interpron Group I and used his
15 talents to analyze photographic intelligence in the Pacific; he was
16 stationed in both Guam and Okinawa during the war, and following its
17 conclusion, he helped map the islands off the Japanese coast; and

18 WHEREAS, After his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Graves
19 returned to Uvalde to start his own architecture business and to
20 raise a family with his wife, Vida "Billie" Helen Neal, with whom he
21 enjoyed a loving marriage until her death in 1991; fortunate to find
22 love again, he married Lillian Little in 1997 and they shared five
23 happy years together before he again became a widower; and a man who
24 never quite got around to retiring, he practiced architecture for

1 58 years, leaving behind a host of buildings, each a testament to
2 his talent and expertise; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Graves was a highly regarded community leader
4 whose devotion to his hometown, state, and profession benefitted
5 the lives of countless individuals; locally, the Uvalde City
6 Council, the city planning board, the chamber of commerce, and the
7 Uvalde Tree Board were strengthened by his involvement, as were the
8 South Texas Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scout Camp Fawcett
9 Development Committee, the El Progreso Memorial Library Board, the
10 Concan Baptist Church, and the Uvalde Historical Society, which he
11 served by overseeing the restoration and preservation of the Janey
12 Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House; in recognition of his many
13 civic efforts, he was lauded as the Uvalde Chamber of Commerce
14 Citizen of the Year in 1964; and

15 WHEREAS, At both the state and national levels, Mr. Graves
16 gave of his time and talents as a member of the American Institute
17 of Architects, the Society of American Registered Architects, the
18 National Architectural Examination Committee, and the Texas
19 Society of Architects; in addition, he was chairman of the Texas
20 Board of Architectural Examiners, director of the Southern
21 Conference of the National Council of Architectural Registration
22 Boards, and for four terms, president of the Nueces River
23 Authority, during which time he was influential in the development
24 of Choke Canyon Dam; and

25 WHEREAS, In all aspects of his life, Jack Graves set a
26 sterling example of excellence to which all may aspire, and his
27 legacy will live on in the hearts of those whose lives he so richly

1 blessed; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of John Studer
4 Graves and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to
5 his children and their spouses, Janeal and Chris Prickett, John S.
6 Graves, Jr., and his wife, Carol, Gayle Korbell, Jody and Bo Farr,
7 and Brian and Terri Graves; to his sisters and brother-in-law,
8 Doris Reynolds and Mary and Joe Hufstedler; to his brothers and
9 sisters-in-law, George "Hoot" Graves, Bill and Shirley Graves, and
10 Jim and Peggy Graves; to his grandchildren, Lane Prickett, John S.
11 "Trey" Graves III, Christy King, Neal Graves, Brooke Korbell, Danna
12 Korbell, Emily Korbell, Thomas Farr, and Evan Graves; to his
13 great-grandchildren, Christopher Prickett, Gus Prickett, Nancy
14 Prickett, Clayton King, Kyle King, Caroline Graves, Ryan Graves,
15 and Jackson Graves; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
19 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John
20 Studer Graves.