

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 818

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ruth and John Alan Hord of Midland shared a life rich
2 with family, faith, and community, and they are deeply missed since
3 the passing of Mr. Hord on May 11, 2008, and of Mrs. Hord on November
4 27, 2008, both at the age of 91; and

5 WHEREAS, The former Ruth Waldrop was born in Gilmer County on
6 December 30, 1916, and lived with her family in San Antonio, Dallas,
7 Washington, D.C., Tennessee, Mexico, and New York City before
8 enrolling in Oak Cliff High School, where she met her future
9 husband; and

10 WHEREAS, A Dallas native, J. A. Hord was born on February 21,
11 1917, not far from where his great-grandparents had settled during
12 the Texas Republic; he and his future wife both began studying
13 geology at North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington, and Mrs.
14 Hord later worked her way through The University of Texas at Austin,
15 while he did the same at Oklahoma University; the couple married in
16 1938, and Mrs. Hord graduated magna cum laude with a degree in
17 geology the following year; Mr. Hord earned his bachelor's degree
18 in geological engineering in 1940, and they both pursued graduate
19 studies at OU until Gulf Oil offered Mr. Hord a position as a
20 geologist in the Permian Basin; and

21 WHEREAS, The couple became the parents of three children, and
22 Mr. Hord's field work and positions of increasing responsibility
23 took the family to Dallas, Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, and Wichita
24 Falls, and then back to Midland; Mrs. Hord served as a homeroom

1 mother, PTA member, Sunday school teacher, and Girl Scout leader,
2 and not only supported her children's participation in numerous
3 activities but also turned picnics into fossil-hunting expeditions
4 and car trips into lessons on history, geography, and natural
5 science; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1960, Mr. Hord became general manager of
7 exploration for Gulf's Southwest Division, a position he held until
8 his retirement in 1979; he subsequently built a successful
9 independent practice on his strong record of oil and gas
10 discoveries; a member of several professional associations, he
11 served on the advisory council for the OU School of Geology and
12 Geophysics for many years and was a member of the industry committee
13 that assisted Texas Tech University in obtaining certification for
14 its petroleum engineering department; and

15 WHEREAS, This adventurous couple traveled widely after their
16 children were grown, visiting many countries in Europe and in
17 Central and South America; in addition, they joined a 4,000-mile
18 geological expedition to the major oil fields of China; Mrs. Hord
19 was a member of the Texas Historical Association, the Midland
20 County Historical Society, the Midland Genealogical Society, and
21 the Daughters of the American Revolution, and in his retirement,
22 Mr. Hord joined in her research efforts in county courthouses
23 across the South; and

24 WHEREAS, Valued members of the First Presbyterian Church of
25 Midland, the Hords both gave generously of their time and talents to
26 their community and church; Mrs. Hord was an International House
27 hostess and member of the church women's circle; Mr. Hord was an

1 elder and served on the board of Midland Park and on municipal
2 committees for school curricula, the city water supply, and other
3 matters; moreover, he was on the Midland Salvation Army board and
4 the executive and advisory boards of the local Boy Scouts of America
5 council; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout their seven decades together, Ruth and
7 John Alan Hord shared a zest for life and a curiosity about the
8 world around them, and they will long be remembered for their
9 devotion to their family and to each other; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the lives of Ruth and John Alan
12 Hord and extend sincere sympathy to the members of their family: to
13 their daughters, Elaine Hutchinson and her husband, Frederick, and
14 Melinda Reaves and her husband, Charles; to their son, Thomas Alan
15 Hord and his wife, Nancy; to their grandchildren, David and Paul
16 Hutchinson, Arianna Reaves, Bonnie Gillespie, Susan Herman, Mary
17 Tucker, and John Alan Hord II; to their seven great-grandchildren;
18 to Mrs. Hord's sister and brother, Molly Lara and Thomas Waldrop,
19 and to their other relatives and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for their family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruth and
23 John Alan Hord.