

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 894

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of esteemed civic leader Mary Lou Maas Grier of Boerne on  
3 February 15, 2013, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Tona Oliver Maas and Louise Emily  
5 Maas, the former Mary Lou Maas was born on April 4, 1925, in the  
6 Panama Canal Zone, where her father was involved in the  
7 construction and management of the Panama Canal Project; she  
8 graduated from Balboa High School in Panama before going on to study  
9 journalism at the University of Missouri, and she continued her  
10 education at San Antonio College; and

11 WHEREAS, She met Baxter Redditt Grier in the Panama Canal  
12 Zone, and the couple were joined in matrimony in San Antonio; on the  
13 eve of World War II, Mrs. Grier joined her husband in Honolulu,  
14 where she worked at the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor;  
15 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, she accepted a position on the  
16 editorial staff of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*; and

17 WHEREAS, Mrs. Grier became the proud mother of three  
18 children, Bonnie, Bob, and Jim; while devoting herself to her home  
19 and family, she was extremely active in her community and civic  
20 life, and she played a key role in building the Republican Party in  
21 Texas; in 1968, she helped found the Kendall County Republican  
22 Women, and she worked tirelessly as a member of the Texas Federation  
23 of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican  
24 Women; she was an officer, board member, and delegate to the

1 organization's state and national federation conventions, and she  
2 regularly served as a delegate to county, state, and national  
3 Republican Party conventions; during the 1960s, she was vice chair  
4 of the Bexar County Republican Party and editor and publisher of the  
5 *Bexar County Trumpeter*, and she represented the 26th Senatorial  
6 District on the state Republican executive committee; she was named  
7 Outstanding Republican Woman of Texas in 1971 by the TFRW, and three  
8 years later, she became the party's first female nominee for  
9 statewide office when she ran for state land commissioner; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford  
11 and Ronald Reagan, Mrs. Grier was appointed to a number of positions  
12 in Washington, D.C.; she served the Small Business Administration  
13 as deputy advocate for advisory councils and was later deputy  
14 director and then acting director of the Bureau of Outdoor  
15 Recreation in the U.S. Department of the Interior; subsequently,  
16 she served as deputy director and acting director of the National  
17 Park Service; and

18 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan gave generously of her time and  
19 talents as a member of the Texas Women's Alliance; she traveled  
20 extensively on nonpartisan missions to promote international  
21 trade, participating in a number of initiatives of the alliance and  
22 the U.S. Department of Commerce, among them trade missions to  
23 Spain, Switzerland, Prague, and Budapest; moreover, she took part  
24 in the Japan-Texas Association Annual Meeting-Trade Mission; and

25 WHEREAS, A true pillar of the community, Mrs. Grier was  
26 president of the board of the Boerne Independent School District  
27 and vice chair of the World Affairs Council of San Antonio; she was

1 a founding member of St. Mark Presbyterian Church and served the  
2 congregation in a variety of capacities, including ruling elder,  
3 trustee, and clerk of session; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Lou Maas Grier made a positive difference in  
5 the world around her through her many significant contributions,  
6 and although her death has brought great sorrow to her loved ones,  
7 memories of her kindness, leadership, and commitment to excellence  
8 will remain a source of inspiration to all who were privileged to  
9 know her; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary Lou Maas Grier  
12 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her  
13 daughter, Bonnie Lyons; to her sons, Bob and Jim Grier; to her  
14 son-in-law, Steve Lyons; to her daughters-in-law, Linda and  
15 Margaret; to her grandchildren, Jennifer and Jonathan; to her  
16 great-grandchildren, Emma, Sawyer, and James; and to her other  
17 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House  
20 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary Lou  
21 Maas Grier.