

By: Springer

H.R. No. 1444

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an admired coach and educator drew to a
2 close with the untimely passing of Tommy Lee Grace of Graham on July
3 7, 2016, at the age of 63; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Odessa, Tommy Grace was born on October
5 15, 1952, to Albert Thomas Grace Jr. and Myra Grace; he graduated
6 from Gordon High School and served his country as a member of the
7 United States Army during the Vietnam War before earning a master's
8 degree from Tarleton State University; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Grace enjoyed a notable tenure with the Graham
10 Independent School District that spanned more than two decades; in
11 addition to coaching football, boys' and girls' basketball, track,
12 and golf, he served as the boys' athletic director and taught
13 science at Graham Junior High School; active in his professional
14 community, he was a member of the Texas High School Coaches
15 Association and the Coaches Outreach ministry; and

16 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan married the love of his life,
17 the former Debra Strain, on December 23, 1972, and the couple
18 nurtured a rewarding union that was blessed with two children,
19 Kelley and Jeff, and five grandchildren, Logan, Ryan, Joshua,
20 Hattie Belle, and Kyle; and

21 WHEREAS, Tommy Grace lived a rich and purposeful life, and
22 memories of his devotion to his family, his students, and his
23 community will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him;
24 now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Tommy Lee Grace and
3 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
4 wife, Debra Grace; to his children, Kelley Schmidt and her husband,
5 Andrew, and Jeff Grace and his wife, Jessica; to his grandchildren,
6 Logan, Ryan, Joshua, and Hattie Belle Grace and Kyle Schmidt; to his
7 siblings, Jackie Corley and her husband, Benny, and Albert Grace
8 III and his wife, Linda; and to his many other relatives and
9 friends; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tommy Lee
13 Grace.