

SHORT TITLE: Praising the life and public career of the late Ralph W. Graves; expressing condolences on his death; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Extraordinary Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 4

By: Henry of the Senate

and

Weaver of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution praising the life and public career of the late Ralph W. Graves; expressing condolences on his death; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves was born May 28, 1919, on a farm near Elmore, Oklahoma. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and attended East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves served from October, 1941, through August, 1945, in the United States Army Infantry. He served as a squad and platoon leader in the Pacific Theater with the 96th Infantry Division. He was engaged in combat in Leyte, Luzon and Okinawa, winning a Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman medal and Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant and was subsequently active in numerous veterans organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Blinded Veterans Association; and

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves was the owner and operator of Ralph W. Graves Insurance Agency in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He served as a member of the Advisory Council for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Campfire Girls and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis of Pottawatomie County. Ralph Graves was Legislative Director of the Cerebral Palsy Association, a member of the Sportsmen Club, the Oklahoma Baptist

University Alumni Association, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and Farmers Union; and

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves began his career in public service as Ward 2 City Commissioner of Shawnee, Oklahoma, where he served from 1948 through 1950. In 1950 he became Mayor of Shawnee, at that time the youngest person to ever hold that position; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ralph W. Graves was elected to the House of Representatives in 1954 and served three terms through 1959 as a member of the 25th, 26th and 27th Oklahoma State Legislatures. He served on the Insurance Committee and Roads and Highways Committee; as Vice Chair of the Municipal Government Committee and the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee; and as Chair of the Banks and Banking Committee. In 1987, the Oklahoma House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 1013, congratulating and commending Ralph W. Graves for 37 years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ralph W. Graves began his service in the Oklahoma State Senate in 1961 where he held a seat until 1977. He served as Chair of the Banks and Banking Committee; Health, Welfare, and Veterans' Affairs Committee; and the Committee on Professions and Occupations. Senator Graves served as Vice Chair of both the Public Health Committee and Public Safety Committee. He also served as a member on a number of committees including Appropriations and Budget; Business, Industry and Labor Relations; Committees and Rules; Constitutional Revision and Redistricting; Economic and Industrial Development; Environment and Natural Resources; Finance; Higher Education; Insurance; Municipal Government; Roads and Highways; and Social Welfare. In 1987, the Oklahoma State Senate adopted Senate Resolution 11, commending Ralph W. Graves for 37 years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves was the author or co-author of numerous pieces of major legislation including the Juvenile Code; the Uniform Consumer Credit Code; the legislation creating vocational-technical

schools, Tuition Aid Grant Programs for economically deprived youth; the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement Act, Public Employees Group Health, Accident and Life Insurance Act; and the Oklahoma Banking Code. Ralph W. Graves was also proud of his attendance record which was one of the highest in the Legislature. He considered himself an environmentalist, consumer advocate, bridge builder and a friend of the student, the senior citizen, the disabled and the veteran; and

WHEREAS, after service in the State Senate, Ralph W. Graves was appointed by Governor George Nigh as director of the state's highway safety program where he initiated safety and education programs that contributed to a decrease in fatalities that was the lowest in the state in more than a quarter of a century; and

WHEREAS, Ralph W. Graves died Thursday, October 6, 1994, at the age of 75 years. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Russell Graves of Norman, daughter and son-in-law Barbara and Doc Lawson of Purcell, stepchildren and spouse John and Debbie Sexton, Robert Sexton and Ann Sexton, all of Oklahoma City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises the life and public career of Ralph W. Graves.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the late Ralph W. Graves.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to his wife, Dorothy Sexton Graves.

44-2EX-4023      THC