

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Honoring the life of William “Billy” F. Graham, Jr.

Whereas William “Billy” F. Graham, Jr., was born on November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina;

Whereas, in 1939, Reverend Graham was ordained by Peniel Baptist Church in Florida;

Whereas Reverend Graham studied at Florida Bible Institute and graduated from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, in 1943;

Whereas Reverend Graham married his wife of nearly 64 years, Ruth McCue Bell, in 1943;

Whereas Reverend Graham had 3 daughters, 2 sons, 19 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren;

Whereas, in 1950, Reverend Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which is based in Charlotte, North Carolina;

Whereas Reverend Graham preached to nearly 215,000,000 individuals in more than 185 countries and territories on 6 continents;

Whereas Reverend Graham provided spiritual counsel for every President since Harry Truman;

Whereas Reverend Graham prayed with members of the Armed Forces in combat zones in South Korea and Vietnam;

Whereas Reverend Graham spoke against the communist Soviet Union, saying, “Communism has decided against God, against Christ, against the Bible, and against all religion.”;

Whereas Reverend Graham—

- (1) fought for racial integration;
- (2) invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to preach with him in New York City in 1957; and
- (3) bailed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., out of jail when Dr. King was arrested for protesting segregation;

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Reverend Graham spoke words of hope and comfort to the people of the United States at the Washington National Cathedral;

Whereas Reverend Graham authored 34 books, including the bestselling autobiography, “Just as I Am”, which began by discussing his early days on a dairy farm in North Carolina and continued through his career as a preacher and evangelist; and

Whereas Reverend Graham received numerous honors, including—

- (1) the North Carolina Award for Public Service;
- (2) the Presidential Medal of Freedom;
- (3) the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award; and
- (4) the Congressional Gold Medal: Now, therefore,

be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That Congress—

4            (1) extends its sympathies to the family of Wil-  
5        liam “Billy” F. Graham, Jr.; and

6            (2) honors—

7            (A) the life and ministry of Reverend Gra-  
8        ham; and

9            (B) the contributions of Reverend Graham  
10        to—

11            (i) the State of North Carolina;

12            (ii) the United States of America; and

13            (iii) the moral and religious lives of  
14        millions of individuals.

Passed the Senate February 28, 2018.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. J. RES. 53**

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