

Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1027

By: Coody, Ritze, Cleveland,
West (Tammy), McDugle,
Bennett (John), Sanders,
Ownbey, Wright, Downing,
Moore, Strohm, O'Donnell,
West (Josh), Faught, West
(Rick), McEachin, Sears,
Russ, McDaniel, Taylor,
Gann, Dunlap, Murphey,
Nollan, Baker, Hilbert,
Jordan, Hall, Mulready and
Enns

A Resolution recognizing the remarkable life and
legacy of Billy Graham; honoring his extraordinary
contributions to our state, nation and world;
mourning his passing; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, known as "America's Pastor", the Reverend Billy Graham,
a North Carolina farmer's son who preached to millions in stadium
events, provided spiritual counsel to many influential figures and
was the nation's best-known Christian evangelist for more than sixty
years died on February 21, 2018, at the age of 99; and

WHEREAS, William Franklin Graham, Jr., was born on November 7,
1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina, to parents William and Morrow
Graham. Known as "Billy Frank" to his family and friends, he was
the oldest of four children raised on his family's dairy farm. At
the age of 16, he was set on a profound spiritual path while
attending a series of revival meetings hosted by a traveling
evangelist; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham said he felt God calling him to the
ministry while attending college at the Florida Bible Institute,
where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology. He then

attended Wheaton College in Illinois where he met Ruth McCue Bell, whom he married in 1943 and with whom he had five children; and

WHEREAS, in the early years of his career, Billy Graham worked in churches, joined an evangelical missionary group and was president of a group of Christian schools. People were quick to identify with his charismatic and heartfelt gospel sermons. His popularity grew nationally when he was invited to speak at a "Christ for Greater Los Angeles" revival in 1949. His message resonated with many people, and he is credited with guiding a vulnerable nation through religious revival in post-WWII America; and

WHEREAS, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was created to broadcast Billy Graham's sermons to 1,200 radio stations across the country and the program was later converted to television. These broadcasts reached millions around the globe and resulted in the publication of magazines, periodicals, records, tapes, films and books; and

WHEREAS, many times Billy Graham embraced the role of national spiritual advisor reading from scripture at presidential funerals, offering prayers at a service in the National Cathedral for victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and traveling to New Orleans in 2006 to preach to survivors of Hurricane Katrina in spite of his declining health; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham comforted Oklahomans and the nation at the statewide prayer service following the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, preaching that "The spirit of this city and this nation will not be defeated; our deeply rooted faith sustains us"; and

WHEREAS, after sixty years of traveling all over the country and the world preaching the Gospel to more than 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories as estimated by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Billy Graham retired to his home with Ruth in Montreat, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, although Billy Graham was laid to rest next to his beloved wife Ruth at a private funeral service at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on March 2, 2018, he has famously said, "My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the remarkable life and legacy of Billy Graham.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature honors the extraordinary contributions of Billy Graham to our state, nation and world and mourns his passing.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the children of Billy Graham: Virginia "Gigi" Tchividjian, Anne Graham Lotz, Ruth Graham McIntyre, William Franklin Graham, III, and Nelson "Ned" Edman Graham.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 5th day, March 2018.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____