

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1027

 By: Coody and Ritze

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8 AS INTRODUCED

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

13
14 WHEREAS, known as "America's Pastor", the Reverend Billy Graham,
15 a North Carolina farmer's son who preached to millions in stadium
16 events, provided spiritual counsel to many influential figures and
17 was the nation's best-known Christian evangelist for more than sixty
18 years died on February 21, 2018, at the age of 99; and

19 WHEREAS, William Franklin Graham, Jr., was born on November 7,
20 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina, to parents William and Morrow
21 Graham. Known as "Billy Frank" to his family and friends, he was
22 the oldest of four children raised on his family's dairy farm. At
23 the age of 16, he was set on a profound spiritual path while
24

1 attending a series of revival meetings hosted by a traveling
2 evangelist; and

3 WHEREAS, Billy Graham said he felt God calling him to the
4 ministry while attending college at the Florida Bible Institute,
5 where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology. He then
6 attended Wheaton College in Illinois where he met Ruth McCue Bell,
7 whom he married in 1943 and with whom he had five children; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, many times Billy Graham embraced the role of national
23 spiritual advisor reading from scripture at presidential funerals,
24 offering prayers at a service in the National Cathedral for victims

1 of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and traveling to New
2 Orleans in 2006 to preach to survivors of Hurricane Katrina in spite
3 of his declining health; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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6 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
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