

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1027

By: Coody and Ritze

7 AS INTRODUCED

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

12  
13 WHEREAS, known as "America's Pastor", the Reverend Billy Graham,  
14 a North Carolina farmer's son who preached to millions in stadium  
15 events, provided spiritual counsel to many influential figures and  
16 was the nation's best-known Christian evangelist for more than sixty  
17 years died on February 21, 2018, at the age of 99; and

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, many times Billy Graham embraced the role of national  
21 spiritual advisor reading from scripture at presidential funerals,  
22 offering prayers at a service in the National Cathedral for victims  
23 of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and traveling to New  
24

1 Orleans in 2006 to preach to survivors of Hurricane Katrina in spite  
2 of his declining health; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24

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.

5  
6        56-2-9969        EK        03/01/18  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24