

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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SENATE RESOLUTION 688

Sponsors: Senators Soucek; Allran, Atwater, D. Berger, Brock, Davis, Forrester, Gunn, Hise, Jackson, Meredith, Pate, and Rouzer.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 20, 2011

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING BILLY GRAHAM A FAVORITE SON OF
2 NORTH CAROLINA.

3 Whereas, there have been many great North Carolinians, but few have impacted the
4 world more than Billy Graham; and

5 Whereas, Billy Graham was born William Franklin Graham, Jr. on November 7,
6 1918, to William Franklin Graham and Morrow Coffey Graham and was reared on a dairy farm
7 in Charlotte; and

8 Whereas, Billy Graham attended the Florida Bible Institute in 1937 and was
9 ordained to the ministry in 1939 by a church in the Southern Baptist Convention; and

10 Whereas, Billy Graham graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois in 1943 and
11 during that same year married college classmate, Ruth McCue Bell; and

12 Whereas, Billy Graham served as pastor of The Village Church in Western Springs,
13 Illinois, from 1943 to 1945; as a member of Youth for Christ International, where he ministered
14 to young people and military personnel from 1945 to 1950; and as President of Northwestern
15 Schools, a liberal arts college, Bible school, and theological seminary, from 1947 to 1952; and

16 Whereas, after World War II, Billy Graham preached throughout the United States
17 and Europe and attained international prominence as an evangelist through a series of crusades
18 that began in 1949; and

19 Whereas, since 1950, Billy Graham has conducted his ministry through the Billy
20 Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), reaching multitudes of people by means of a
21 weekly radio program, "Hour of Decision"; a newspaper column, "My Answer"; and televised
22 crusades, articles published in "Decision" magazine, and evangelistic films produced and
23 distributed by World Wide Pictures and now reaching millions through the BGEA Web site and
24 the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte; and

25 Whereas, over the years, Billy Graham has preached to live audiences of nearly 215
26 million people in more than 185 countries and territories; and

27 Whereas, a renowned humanitarian and philanthropist, Billy Graham has tried to
28 help those in need through his work with the World Emergency Relief Fund, which gives
29 financial assistance to disaster victims, and the "Love in Action" committees, which collected
30 and distributed food and clothing in BGEA crusade cities; and

31 Whereas, Billy Graham has received numerous awards and honorary degrees,
32 including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996, the North Carolina Award for Public Service
33 in 1986, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983; Honorary Knighthood (KBE) from
34 Her Majesty the Queen of England in 2001 for his international contribution to civic and
35 religious life over 60 years; and



1 Whereas, Billy Graham received the Big Brother of the Year Award in 1966 for his
2 work on behalf of the welfare of children and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation
3 Freedom Award in 2000 for monumental and lasting contributions to the cause of freedom; and

4 Whereas, Billy Graham has opposed racial discrimination and, in the 1950s and
5 1960s, never held a segregated meeting but conducted fully integrated crusades; and

6 Whereas, Billy Graham was cited by the George Washington Carver Memorial
7 Institute for his contributions to race relations in 1964 and was recognized by the
8 Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith in 1969 and the National Conference of Christians
9 and Jews in 1971 for his efforts to foster a better understanding among all faiths; and

10 Whereas, Billy Graham has counseled and advised presidents and world leaders and
11 has participated in many historic occasions; and

12 Whereas, Billy Graham has written more than 25 books, all of which have become
13 best sellers, including his book, "Just As I Am," an autobiography published in 1997; and

14 Whereas, Billy Graham has been named one of Gallup Poll's list of the "Ten Most
15 Admired Men in the World" for an unprecedented 54 times, 48 of which have been in
16 consecutive years; and

17 Whereas, admired and beloved by both Christians and non-Christians, Billy Graham
18 continues to inspire the world with his good works; and

19 Whereas, Billy Graham, having served our State and country as a faithful and
20 fearless soldier of the cross, having carried the Gospel of Christ for more than 70 years
21 throughout the world, is proud to call himself a Tar Heel and to make North Carolina his home;
22 and

23 Whereas, Governor Michael F. Easley proclaimed October 29, 2002, as "The
24 Reverend Billy Graham Appreciation Day"; Now, therefore,

25 Be it resolved by the Senate:

26 **SECTION 1.** The Senate honors the memory of the many North Carolinians who
27 have made significant contributions to the State.

28 **SECTION 2.** The Senate honors and names Billy Graham a Favorite Son of North
29 Carolina.

30 **SECTION 3.** The Senate urges the Department of Cultural Resources to establish a
31 permanent exhibit of the life and ministry of Billy Graham in the Chronology Exhibit at the
32 North Carolina Museum of History.

33 **SECTION 4.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
34 to Billy Graham and to the Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources.

35 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.