

1 SJR84
2 192147-2
3 By Senators Pittman, Waggoner, Orr, Reed, Williams, Allen,
4 Ward, Holtzclaw, Glover, Livingston, McClendon, Chambliss,
5 Scofield, Holley, Shelnut, Albritton, Stutts, Dunn,
6 Coleman-Madison, Figures, Marsh, Singleton, Sanford,
7 Brewbaker, Smitherman, Bussman, Beasley, Blackwell, Dial,
8 Hightower, Melson, Sanders, Smith and Whatley
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 01-MAR-18

1 SJR84

2
3
4 ENROLLED, SJR84,

5 MOURNING THE DEATH OF THE REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM,
6 EVANGELIST TO THE WORLD.

7
8 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
9 death on February 21, 2018, of the Reverend Billy Graham of
10 Montreat, North Carolina, at the age of 99 years; and

11 WHEREAS, the Reverend Graham was born William
12 "Billy" Franklin Graham, Jr., on November 7, 1918, to William
13 Franklin, Sr. and Morrow Coffey Graham, in Charlotte, North
14 Carolina; and

15 WHEREAS, a graduate of Florida Bible Institute which
16 is now Trinity College of Florida; he received a Bachelor of
17 Arts Degree in Anthropology from Wheaton College in Wheaton,
18 Illinois, he was ordained to the ministry by Peniel Baptist
19 Church, Palatka, Florida, in 1939; and

20 WHEREAS, throughout his life, the Reverend Graham
21 preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to more than 215 million
22 people who attended one of his more than 400 Crusades,
23 simulcasts and evangelistic rallies in more than 185 countries
24 and territories; he reached millions more through television,
25 video, film, the internet, and 34 books; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2001, he comforted his country and the
2 world when he spoke at the National Cathedral in Washington,
3 D.C., following the September 11 terrorist attacks; at three
4 global conferences held in Amsterdam, the Reverend Graham
5 gathered some 23,000 evangelists from 208 countries and
6 territories to train them to carry the message of Jesus Christ
7 around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, during the week of his 95th birthday in
9 2013, the Reverend Graham delivered his final message via more
10 than 480 television stations across the United States and
11 Canada; more than 26,000 churches participated in this "My
12 Hope" project, making it the Billy Graham Evangelistic
13 Association's largest evangelistic outreach ever in North
14 America; and

15 WHEREAS, at his final Crusade in June 2005 at
16 Flushing Meadows Corona Park in New York, the Reverend Graham
17 said, "I have one message: That Jesus Christ came, He died on
18 a cross, He rose again, and He, and He asked us to repent of
19 our sins and receive Him by faith as Lord and Savior, and if
20 we do, we have forgiveness of all our sins"; and

21 WHEREAS, in his autobiography, "Just As I Am," the
22 Reverend Graham wrote that he felt God calling him to the
23 ministry; the call came during a late-night walk on a golf
24 course; "I got down on my knees at the edge of one of the
25 greens, then I prostrated myself on the dewy turf, 'O God,' I

1 sobbed, 'if you want me to serve you, I will'; all the
2 surroundings stayed the same, no sign in the heavens, no voice
3 from above, but in my spirit I knew I had been called to the
4 ministry, and I knew my answer was yes"; and

5 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents;
6 and his beloved wife of 64 years, Ruth McCue Bell Graham; and

7 WHEREAS, survivors include his sister, Jean Ford;
8 daughters, Virginia Leftwich "Gigi" Graham, Anne Morrow Graham
9 Lotz, Ruth Bell Graham, William Franklin Graham, III, and
10 Nelson Edman Graham; 19 grandchildren, and 41
11 great-grandchildren; and

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of the Reverend
14 Billy Graham is recorded with deep sadness, and this
15 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with
16 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
17 many.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR84

Senate 01-MAR-18

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 06-MAR-18

By: Senator Pittman