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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 287 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, BROOKS, MARTIN, RAFFERTY, EICHELBERGER,  
BROWNE, HUTCHINSON, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, COSTA, GORDNER, YAW,  
WHITE, VOGEL AND FOLMER, MARCH 20, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of the late Reverend Billy Graham.

2 WHEREAS, William Franklin Graham, Jr., passed away in his  
3 North Carolina home on February 21, 2018, at 99 years of age;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham was widely regarded as "America's  
6 Pastor" due to his innumerable contributions to American life  
7 and culture; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham specifically had an instrumental  
9 influence on American morality during a crucial time in our  
10 country's history when, to many, morals seemed less than  
11 absolute; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham completed more than half a century  
13 of ministry where he preached to more people in live audiences  
14 than anyone else in history; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham was among the first in the  
16 evangelical community to capitalize on the booming technological  
17 advances of the time, utilizing television, radio and the press

1 to spread his message of hope to millions of people across the  
2 globe; and

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham's sermons were translated into 48  
4 languages to be shared with nearly 215 million people in 185  
5 countries since he began his ministry in October 1947; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham provided personal guidance and  
7 religious counsel to nearly all of our nation's presidents in  
8 the last century, as well as to many other political and  
9 influential leaders; and

10 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham guided our nation through many  
11 critical moments in history, including reading from Scripture at  
12 the funeral services for President Richard Nixon, leading a  
13 prayer service for the victims of 9/11 at the National Cathedral  
14 and traveling to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to offer  
15 prayer and support for those affected by the disaster; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham adamantly opposed segregation and as  
17 such is lauded for breaking with tradition by refusing to preach  
18 to racially segregated crowds, proclaiming that Christianity is  
19 not for one race, gender or ethnicity, but for all; and

20 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham's upstanding morals and strict  
21 ethical standards allowed him to oversee a ministry nearly  
22 untouched by infidelity, financial fraud or other scandals; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham appeared on Gallup's annual list of  
24 most admired men and women 61 times since 1955; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham received the Presidential Medal of  
26 Freedom from President Ronald Reagan in 1983 for his  
27 inspirational leadership in spreading the Gospel to every corner  
28 of the globe; and

29 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham authored more than 30 books, hosted  
30 his own radio program (Hour of Decision) and various television

1 shows, published *Decision* magazine and founded the Billy Graham  
2 Evangelistic Association, an organization dedicated to  
3 evangelistic ministry, as well as equipping others to spread the  
4 Word of God; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 recognize the profound impact that Reverend Billy Graham has had  
7 not only on American values and culture but also on individual  
8 lives around the world through his ministry and his foundation;  
9 and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 honor the significant accomplishments and preserve the lasting  
12 legacy of an extraordinary leader; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 extend its deepest condolences to the family members surviving  
15 Reverend Graham, including his 5 children, 19 grandchildren and  
16 numerous great-grandchildren, many of whom are also involved in  
17 ministry; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
19 the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham  
20 Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201.