

1 HJR258
2 192236-2
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Jones, Chesteen, Lee, Baker,
4 Shiver, Hurst, Polizos, Gaston, Martin, Davis, Mooney, Faust,
5 Collins, Pettus, Nordgren, Clouse, Beech, Lawrence, Butler,
6 Blackshear, Shedd, Standridge, Weaver, Pringle, Williams (JD),
7 Sells, Wood, Hall, Sessions, Tuggle, Rich, Williams (JW),
8 Whorton (R), Sanderford, Hanes, Beckman, McMillan, Drummond,
9 Forte, Clarke, Ellis, Ingram, Holmes (M), Fincher, McClammy,
10 Hollis, Ainsworth, Crawford, Garrett, Ford, Johnson (R),
11 Millican, Scott, Moore (M), Coleman, Poole, Harper, Williams
12 (P), South, Buskey, Jackson, Hill, Morrow, McCampbell, Warren,
13 Ledbetter, Rogers, Wadsworth, Black, Ball, Fridy, Rowe, Brown,
14 Harbison, Givan, Lovvorn, Bracy, Daniels, Boothe, Carns and
15 Faulkner
16 RFD:
17 First Read: 27-FEB-18

8 MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
9 REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM, EVANGELIST TO THE WORLD.
10

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, throughout his life, the Reverend Graham
24 preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to more than 215 million
25 people who attended one of his more than 400 Crusades,
26 simulcasts and evangelistic rallies in more than 185 countries

1 and territories; he reached millions more through television,
2 video, film, the internet, and 34 books; and

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, in his autobiography, "Just As I Am," the
24 Reverend Graham wrote that he felt God calling him to the
25 ministry; the call came during a late-night walk on a golf
26 course; "I got down on my knees at the edge of one of the
27 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, over the course of Reverend Graham's
6 ministry, he became a beloved minister to many citizens of the
7 State of Alabama, as well as the United States and all over
8 the world; and

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

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

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of the Reverend
18 Billy Graham is recorded with deep sadness and with heartfelt
19 sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many, and
20 also with gratefulness and admiration for his ministry and
21 message, bearing in mind Reverend Graham's oft used words:
22 "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead.
23 Don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am
24 now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone
25 into the presence of God."

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is
27 offered in tribute to his life and ministry.

