

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

In Memory
of
William Franklin Graham Jr.

WHEREAS, The passing of acclaimed evangelist Billy Graham on February 21, 2018, at the age of 99, deeply saddened the millions of people who looked to him for wisdom, hope, and comfort; and

WHEREAS, Born on November 7, 1918, William Franklin Graham Jr. grew up on a dairy farm in Charlotte, North Carolina; at the age of 15, he recognized his calling, and he enrolled in the Florida Bible Institute and then Wheaton College, where he met his future wife, Ruth McCue Bell; after graduating in 1943, the couple married and settled in the mountains of North Carolina; they raised five children, Gigi, Anne, Ruth, Franklin, and Ned, and through the years, Mr. Graham knew the joy of welcoming into his family 19 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; he and his wife shared a fulfilling relationship that spanned 64 years before her death in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham traveled as a speaker for Youth for Christ before holding his first official evangelistic event in 1947; two years later, his planned three-week series of tent meetings in Los Angeles drew such huge crowds that it was extended to eight weeks, and he launched the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; his crusades became an international phenomenon as he preached to millions in countries as diverse as Ethiopia, New Zealand, Russia, and South Korea; in 1977, his trip to communist-led Hungary paved the way for missions in virtually

every country of the Eastern Bloc, as well as China and North Korea; and

WHEREAS, The author of 34 books, Mr. Graham penned a memoir, *Just As I Am*, which held a spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 18 weeks; he counseled a host of secular leaders, including every United States president from Harry S Truman to Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, Billy Graham provided spiritual guidance to innumerable people around the world over the course of a lifetime devoted to the ministry, and his legacy will remain a source of inspiration for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Billy Graham and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 28, 2019, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate