

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2054\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Goforth, Fisher, Thomas, Rapp (Primary Sponsors);  
Coates, Hurley, Lewis, Neumann, Samuelson, Saunders, Setzer, West, and  
Wray.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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May 21, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF GREAT NORTH  
2 CAROLINIANS AND NAMING BILLY GRAHAM AS A FAVORITE SON OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA.

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

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

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

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

13       Whereas, Billy Graham served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in  
14 Western Springs, Illinois, from 1943 to 1945, as a member of Youth for Christ  
15 International, where he ministered to young people and military personnel, from 1945 to  
16 1950, and as President of Northwestern Schools, a liberal arts college, Bible school, and  
17 theological seminary, from 1947 to 1952; and

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

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

26       Whereas, over the years, Billy Graham has preached to live audiences of over  
27 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories; and

1           Whereas, a renowned humanitarian and philanthropist, Billy Graham has  
2 tried to help those in need through his work with the World Emergency Relief Fund,  
3 which gives financial assistance to disaster victims, and the BGEA Love in Action  
4 committees, which collect and distribute food and clothing in crusade cities; and

5           Whereas, Billy Graham has received numerous awards and honorary degrees,  
6 including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996, the North Carolina Award for Public  
7 Service in 1986, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983; and

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

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

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

19           Whereas, Billy Graham has counseled and advised presidents and world  
20 leaders and has participated in many historic occasions, such as the tearing down of the  
21 Berlin Wall; and

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

24           Whereas, Billy Graham has been named one of Gallup Poll's list of the "Ten  
25 Most Admired Men in the World" for an unprecedented 48 times, 41 of which have  
26 been in consecutive years; and

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

29           Whereas, Billy Graham, having served our State and country as a faithful and  
30 fearless soldier of the cross, having carried the Gospel of Christ for more than 60 years  
31 throughout the world, is proud to call himself a Tar Heel and to make North Carolina  
32 his home; and

33           Whereas, Governor Michael F. Easley proclaimed October 29, 2002, as "The  
34 Reverend Billy Graham Appreciation Day"; Now, therefore,  
35 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

36           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the many North  
37 Carolinians who have made significant contributions to the State.

38           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors and names Billy Graham a  
39 Favorite Son of North Carolina.

40           **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly urges the Department of Cultural  
41 Resources to establish a permanent exhibit of the life and ministry of Billy Graham in  
42 the Chronology Exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History.

1           **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
2 resolution to Billy Graham and to the Secretary of the Department of Cultural  
3 Resources.

4           **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.