



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF BILLY GRAHAM**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's native son, the Reverend William Franklin "Billy" Graham, Jr., died on February 21, 2018; Reverend Graham was without peer as an evangelist during his lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy Graham was born on a dairy farm outside Charlotte in 1918 and called the mountain town of Montreat his home and community; and

**WHEREAS**, he attended Wheaton College in Illinois, where he met and in 1943 married his beloved wife, Ruth McCue Bell; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy Graham ministered to millions, starting with sermons for revivals on sawdust floors under canvas tents in Los Angeles in 1949; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Graham refused to preach before racially segregated audiences, beginning in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1953, when he threatened to cancel his appearance unless the dividing ropes were removed; and

**WHEREAS**, his forward-thinking use of radio, television, and other media extended the reach of his spiritual message to people worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Graham carried his message to more than 215 million people in more than 185 countries, including Russia, China, and North Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Graham consistently ranked among the most admired Americans and was known for his humility and his warm, courtly manner; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy Graham, known as America's Pastor, has been accorded the rare honor of lying in repose in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina joins the nation in mourning the loss of this outstanding North Carolinian, whose legacy will remain important to people across our state and the world;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby order that a book be placed in the State Capitol to help record the condolences of the people of the state and proclaim a period of mourning for Billy Graham to extend through his burial on March 2 and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-second day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.