

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 52
Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Joint Resolution
Adopted 8/6/01**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 6, 2001

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 William Franklin Graham, Jr. to William
7 Franklin Graham and Morrow Coffey Graham on a dairy farm in Charlotte; and

8 Whereas, Billy Graham was ordained to the ministry in 1939; and

9 Whereas, Billy Graham served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in
10 Western Springs, Illinois, from 1943 to 1945, as a member of Youth for Christ
11 International, where he ministered to young people and military personnel, from 1945 to
12 1950, and as President of Northwestern Schools, a liberal arts college, Bible school, and
13 theological seminary, from 1947 to 1952; and

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

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

22 Whereas, over the years, Billy Graham has preached to live audiences of over
23 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 Whereas, Billy Graham has written 18 books, all of which have become best
18 sellers, including his latest book, "Just As I Am," an autobiography published in 1997;
19 and

20 Whereas, Billy Graham has been named one of Gallup Poll's list of the "Ten
21 Most Admired Men in the World" for an unprecedented 43 times, 36 of which have
22 been in consecutive years; and

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

25 Whereas, Billy Graham having served our State and country as a faithful and
26 fearless soldier of the cross, having carried the Gospel of Christ for more than 50 years
27 throughout the world, is proud to call himself a Tar Heel and to make North Carolina
28 his home; and

29 Whereas, Governor Michael F. Easley intends to proclaim a day as "Billy
30 Graham Day" in North Carolina during 2002; Now, therefore,
31 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

32 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of great North
33 Carolinians.

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

36 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
37 resolution to Billy Graham.

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