



TOWN OF MONTREAT

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RESOLUTION #18-03-002 HONORING WILLIAM "BILLY" GRAHAM

WHEREAS, William Franklin "Billy" Graham, Jr. was born on November 7, 1918, to William Franklin Graham and Morrow Coffey Graham and was ordained into the Southern Baptist Convention in 1939 ; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham married fellow Wheaton College classmate, Ruth McCue Bell in 1943, and from their union five children were born: Virginia Leftwich, Anne Morrow, Ruth Bell, William Franklin, and Nelson Edman; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham has been an admired and respected resident of the Montreat community since 1945; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Reverend Graham gained international prominence as an evangelist through a series of crusades that began in 1949; and

WHEREAS, since 1950, Reverend Graham has conducted his ministry through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), reaching multitudes of people by means of a weekly radio program, a newspaper column, magazine articles, televised crusades, and evangelistic films ; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham has received numerous awards and honorary degrees including the Gold Award of the George Washington Carver Memorial Institute, Big Brother of the Year Award, International Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Sylvanus Thayer Award from the United States Military Academy Association of Graduates at West Point, the Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion, the North Carolina Award for Public Service, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham has authored 27 books, including many best-sellers, and his messages have reached over 210 million people in over 185 countries ; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his ministry, Reverend Graham has distinguished himself as a man of great faith, showing a genuine interest in reaching out to people from all walks of life who have sought his counsel; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Graham is beloved by millions over all the world, including many in Montreat who are proud to call him neighbor and friend; and

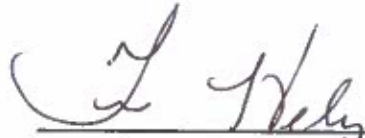
WHEREAS, Reverend Graham passed away on February 21, 2018 at the age of 99;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Montreat Board of Commissioners hereby mourns the passing and celebrates the life of William "Billy" Graham, honors his service to his country, community, family and faith, and directs that certified copies of this Resolution be presented to his family members.

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this the 8th day of March, 2018.

[SEAL]






Tim Helms, Mayor

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of this Resolution, duly adopted by the Town of Montreat on the 8th day of March, 2018, as it appears of record in the official minutes.



Angie Murphy
Town Clerk