

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address March 2, 2018

### Remembering Rev. Billy Graham

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This week, the American people said goodbye to Reverend Billy Graham. Reverend Graham, who recently passed away at the age of 99, was an instrumental faith leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and an American icon.

On Wednesday, he became only the fourth person to lie in honor at the U.S. Capitol. This is a rare honor bestowed by Congressional leadership to distinguished Americans. Reverend Graham joins Rosa Parks and two Capitol Police officers who died in the line of duty in this honor.

It was a privilege to join President Trump, Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, and other Members of Congress in the House and Senate to pay respects to Reverend Graham. As we began, House Chaplain Patrick Conroy gave thanks for the life and ministry of Reverend Graham. He prayed:

*“This day we honor a man of faith, Billy Graham, whose preaching and teaching was transformative in our nation, calling us to ever-greater faithfulness and trust in God.”*

In his lifetime of ministry, Reverend Graham reached more than 200 million people. His gospel messages stretched from his native state of North Carolina, across the United States, and around the world.

Reverend Graham also served as a significant faith advisor for many of America’s leaders, providing wise counsel, guidance, and perspective to those who serve in public office. In fact, he counseled twelve consecutive presidents, on both sides of the political spectrum. Reverend Graham played a role in many of the most significant events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century - he visited combat zones in South Korea and Vietnam, he spoke out against communism, and he worked alongside Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight racial segregation.

Few Americans have impacted our nation like Billy Graham. In recognition of his service, I have signed a joint resolution to honor the life and ministry of Reverend Graham and his contributions to the state of North Carolina, the United States, and the lives of millions of people.

Often called “America’s pastor,” Reverend Graham leaves behind a rich legacy of service, humility, and grace to our nation and the world. At the close of Wednesday’s ceremony, Senate Chaplain Black prayed: *“We thank you for the gift of your servant Reverend Billy Graham.”*

I am thankful that this week's celebration of Reverend Graham's life has given us all an opportunity to reflect on his servant-hearted attitude and work to benefit Americans and people throughout the world. I know I join many North Texans in sharing my condolences with the Graham family during this time.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless the Graham family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.