March 14, 2018 – Introduced by Senators DARLING, COWLES, MARKLEIN, MOULTON, NASS, VUKMIR and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives TITTL, ALLEN, E. BROOKS, EDMING, JAGLER, KITCHENS, KRUG, KULP, MACCO, PETRYK, PRONSchINSKE, ROHRKASTE, SKOWRONSKI, TAUCHEN, THIESFELDT and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: honoring the life and service of Reverend William Franklin “Billy” Graham Jr.

Whereas, Billy Graham passed away on February 21, 2018, at the age of 99, marking the end of an extraordinary public life of wisdom, grace, and self-sacrifice; and

Whereas, Billy Graham was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ruth, and is survived by his children, Virginia Leftwich Graham, Anne Graham Lotz, Ruth Graham, Franklin Graham, and Nelson Edman Graham, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, Reverend Billy Graham served as an advisor, mentor, and counselor for 12 presidents of both parties; and

Whereas, President Ronald Reagan awarded Reverend Graham with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983; and
Whereas, Billy Graham began his famous crusades in 1947 and conducted more than 400 events in 185 countries, preaching the gospel and bringing people to Christ in front of 215 million people; and

Whereas, Reverend Graham visited Wisconsin 22 times during his career, including two stops in Milwaukee; and

Whereas, in the 1970s, Graham held a five-day crusade that drew 151,000 people to Milwaukee County Stadium and more than 60,000 for a ten-day “Milwaukee Reachout” at what is now the UW-Panther Arena; and

Whereas, Reverend Billy Graham stated: “Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will have just changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature hereby recognizes and honors the life and work of Reverend Billy Graham.