



Resolution

Advocating Internet Freedom

-
- WHEREAS** Free speech and free enterprise are bedrock principles that have allowed the internet to grow and flourish.
- WHEREAS** In 2015, the Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Tom Wheeler assumed new powers over internet service providers using Title II of the Communications Act, which allows for the regulation of “common carriers” as public utilities.
- WHEREAS** NRB opposed this application of Title II, particularly noting the poor signal it may send to nations that restrict internet communication or that may wish for an international body like the International Telecommunications Union of the United Nations to have increased authority over the internet. NRB applauded current FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” proceeding to roll back the assumption of those heavy-handed new powers over the internet.
- WHEREAS** NRB has urged caution about new regulatory regimes and has lauded the value of free enterprise. However, NRB also has commented to the FCC, “Any regulation of broadband providers requires a broad picture that includes an evaluation of the policies and practices of edge providers in order to protect the free speech interests of citizen users.”
- WHEREAS** NRB has documented that incidents of censorship of religious viewpoints by major edge providers, including Google, Facebook, and Twitter, are a growing problem.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges the United States to uphold a position of a “light touch” toward the internet and to continue to work to ensure principles of freedom on the internet globally.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges edge provider platforms to embrace their community responsibility to honor First Amendment values as refined by centuries of American jurisprudence and to faithfully apply those principles in their policies and practices.



Resolution

Celebrating and Supporting Israel

-
-
- WHEREAS** Israel's history, including the creation and continued existence of the modern State of Israel, reveals the providential hand of God and His commitment to fulfilling His promises in His Holy Word, the Bible.
- WHEREAS** The Bible records God's promise to Abraham, the patriarch of Israel: "I will make of you a great nation.... I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3).
- WHEREAS** On May 14, 1948, the Israeli Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by David Ben-Gurion, head of the Jewish Agency and soon to become the modern State of Israel's first prime minister.
- WHEREAS** U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new State of Israel immediately, and Israel continues to share a special relationship with the United States as nations committed to freedom and democratic governance that respects the rule of law and the rights of minorities.
- WHEREAS** Since its re-establishment in 1948 to the present day, Israel has faced violence, hostility, and existential threats from powerful state and non-state actors in the Middle East.
- WHEREAS** The United Nations and its committees have a history of unfairly targeting and condemning Israel.
- WHEREAS** The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 established in U.S. law that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that the U.S. Embassy should be moved there, a provision that has been waived by U.S. Presidents every 6 months for approximately 20 years.
- WHEREAS** U.S. President Donald Trump has affirmed that the United States does indeed recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and has set in motion a plan to relocate the U.S. embassy to its rightful place there.
- WHEREAS** Christians are instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! 'May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!' For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, 'Peace be within you!' For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good" (Psalm 122: 6-9).
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB celebrates the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence in the modern era, and NRB calls on its members to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all Israel.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB calls on the United States to honor Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to stand steadfastly by Israel, even as others malign, abandon, or attack her.



Resolution

Honoring the Life & Legacy of Evangelist Billy Graham

- WHEREAS** William Franklin “Billy” Graham, Jr. was born on Nov. 7, 1918 and died on Feb. 21, 2018.
- WHEREAS** In 1934, at age 15, Mr. Graham accepted the Christ as his personal Savior through the ministry of a traveling evangelist holding revival meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina. Five years later, he was ordained by Peniel Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla. and received education at Florida Bible Institute and Wheaton College in Illinois.
- WHEREAS** In 1943, Mr. Graham married fellow Wheaton student Ruth McCue Bell, who grew up in China as the daughter of a missionary surgeon.
- WHEREAS** Mr. and Mrs. Graham exemplified obedience to our Lord’s words in Mark 16:15: “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
- WHEREAS** Mr. Graham’s 1949 Los Angeles Crusade continued for over 8 weeks and launched his ministry to new prominence in the public eye.
- WHEREAS** Throughout his life, Mr. Graham preached the Gospel to 215 million people who attended one of his more than 400 crusades, simulcasts, and evangelistic rallies in more than 185 countries and territories.
- WHEREAS** Mr. Graham was a leader in using technology in service to his Lord, and he reached millions through television, film, the internet, and 34 books.
- WHEREAS** Mr. Graham was inducted into NRB’s Hall of Fame in 1981, received the Chairman’s Award in 1989, and was honored with the association’s Milestone Award in 2001.
- WHEREAS** The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, founded in 1950, has been recognized with a number of NRB awards, including two Awards of Merit and awards for the Best TV Commercial, Best TV Public Service Announcement, Best TV Special Programming, Best TV Mixed Media Campaign, and Best Use of Short Form Video.
- WHEREAS** At his last crusade in 2005, Mr. Graham said, “I have one message: that Jesus Christ came, he died on a cross, he rose again, and he asked us to repent of our sins and receive him by faith as Lord and Savior, and if we do, we have forgiveness of all of our sins.”
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB honors the powerful life and legacy of Evangelist Billy Graham and praises God for Mr. Graham’s century in this world as a truly good and faithful servant to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Resolution

Opposing the Chill of the Johnson Amendment

-
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters is a nonpartisan, international association of Christian communicators whose member organizations reach millions of listeners, viewers, and readers.
- WHEREAS** The First Amendment guarantee of free speech is vital to the mission of Christian communicators.
- WHEREAS** A 1954 provision authored by then-Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson to stop Section 501(c)(3) organizations from “intervening” in political campaigns has since been interpreted to bar ministers and nonprofit leaders from making political statements at their organizations’ functions or in their publications.
- WHEREAS** This constitutionally suspect rule has been vaguely and inconsistently applied by the Internal Revenue Service, resulting in a chilling effect.
- WHEREAS** At the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast, U.S. President Donald Trump proclaimed that America “was formed on the basis that freedom is not a gift from government, but that freedom is a gift from God,” and he promised to eliminate the Johnson Amendment to “allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution.”
- WHEREAS** The Free Speech Fairness Act has been introduced in Congress to fix the Johnson Amendment by clarifying that political statements by 501(c)(3) organizations are permissible as long as they are made in the ordinary course of the organization’s activities. Thus, churches and charities would still be prohibited from making targeted political expenditures, but need not fear expressing views in the normal course of business.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges government and ministry leaders to stand against the Johnson Amendment’s chill of the constitutional free speech rights of churches and ministries, and NRB supports legislation like the Free Speech Fairness Act to provide a statutory remedy.



Resolution

Praying for Peace in the United States

-
-
- WHEREAS** The Holy Scriptures reveal to us that Eve is the mother of all the living (Genesis 3:20), all humanity is descended from common parentage (Acts 17:26), and all people ought to be treated with dignity as beings created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27; cf. James 3:9-10).
- WHEREAS** Our Lord Jesus Christ said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).
- WHEREAS** The Holy Scriptures teach us that government authorities are responsible under God to uphold a good and orderly society (Romans 13:1–7).
- WHEREAS** The United States Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
- WHEREAS** America faces monumental challenges, including festering domestic wounds based on race, ethnicity, religion, and ideological affiliation that have stirred deep divisions and even violence. Indeed, 2017 was marked by an alarming escalation of vicious slander, hateful vandalism of property, and wanton thuggery.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB expresses thanksgiving to our Lord for creating all human beings in His image, and we give thanks that believers from every race and ethnicity are all one in Christ. NRB calls on its members to embrace equality and reconciliation, specifically being mindful in neighbor love and ministry partnerships to reach across racial, ethnic, and partisan lines that have divided too many for too long, demonstrating through love that we are His disciples.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB denounces any form of racism, anti-Semitism, or ethnic discrimination, and NRB opposes the actions of those who would seek to inflame tension for their own gain.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** In the spirit of Psalm 140, NRB prays for deliverance for our churches, our ministries, our communities, and our nation from the venom and traps of violent individuals “who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually” (verse 2).
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB thanks and honors those agents of government who dutifully and bravely work to uphold a just and orderly society in which the constitutional freedoms of every citizen, regardless of background, are enjoyed through the structure of the law.



Resolution

Urging Respect for the Freedom to Believe

- WHEREAS** Since its founding, NRB has devoted itself to protecting First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, particularly as they undergird the mission of Christian communicators to freely and fully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on electronic media, including broadcast, cable, satellite, and internet platforms.
- WHEREAS** Christian communicators are compelled by faith to proclaim the truth in love. However, government agents, as well as activists and influential corporate and political leaders, have worked to discriminate against Americans who adhere to biblical understandings of gender, sexuality, and marriage.
- WHEREAS** In his dissenting opinion in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which redefined the government's understanding of marriage, Chief Justice John Roberts warned, "The majority graciously suggests that religious believers may continue to 'advocate' and 'teach' their views of marriage.... The First Amendment guarantees, however, the freedom to 'exercise' religion. Ominously, that is not a word the majority uses."
- WHEREAS** The U.S. Supreme Court is considering the case Jack Phillips - a Christian, cake artist, and owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop - who was ordered by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission to create cakes celebrating same-sex ceremonies even though they communicated a message in violation of his beliefs.
- WHEREAS** Legislation has been considered in Congress and the states to shield Americans from government agents using tax treatment, licensing, grants, and other means to coerce or discriminate against citizens who merely wish to live in light of their religious convictions about marriage and sexuality.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB contends that the U.S. Government must faithfully preserve, protect, and defend the U.S. Constitution's guarantee that all citizens are free to speak and free to exercise the tenets of their faith in daily life. Moreover, NRB urges Congress and state legislatures to pass laws preventing government intolerance and discrimination against those who adhere to biblical understandings of gender, sexuality, and marriage. Finally, NRB exhorts the United States to return to the truth that marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman.