

## One Day before Election, Billy Graham Turns 98

*Graham's legacy one of faith, values, commitment*

Denver, Colorado – With just a few weeks to go before one of the most contentious presidential races in U.S. history, one man will be largely forgotten; Billy Graham. He will celebrate his 98th birthday on November 7th-one day before the election. More than any other American, Billy Graham has had an impact on every president from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. What would he do this election? He'd vote for religious freedom and human life.

“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith,” said Billy Graham. According to Terry Whalin, the former editor at Graham's Decision magazine, few people realize the enormity of the legacy he will leave behind. His impact has been felt directly by tens of millions of people worldwide. He has reached the lives of statesmen like Winston Churchill and been with people like Mother Teresa and mobsters. Though the years, his message of faith has never wavered.

In Billy Graham: A Biography of America's Greatest Evangelist, Whalin gives us rare glimpses into the life of Graham from childhood to the tireless travel and speaking that endeared him to millions. His Modesto Manifesto provided the framework for both personal and ministry operating principles. Graham never traveled alone nor did he meet or eat alone with any woman other than his wife. The Manifesto governed finances, publicity and immorality – issues that other well known evangelists might have done well to adopt themselves.

An avid sportsman, a practical joker, full of the same fears we all have, Graham followed the call on his life and embraced it with abandon. Though Whalin says he had his own questions and struggles with faith, Graham learned to trust God and His providence move forward in confidence, and lived a life sold out to Christ.

Graham was no stranger to heartache and challenges. His own son, Franklin, was a prodigal. He had physical challenges (kidney stones), doubts, sleepless nights, near-constant travel, long stretches away from his family, and a crash landing in a snowstorm. Before these monumental elections, Franklin Graham is urging people of faith to vote – something Billy always encouraged. Today, the stakes are great. The morality of the nation is fractured. But with 20 million non-voting Christians in the last election, this is pivotal. Billy lived a simple faith, showing us that faith can transform us from what we were to what God can make us.

To schedule an interview with Terry Whalin contact Don Otis – 719.275.7775