

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1330**

**TITLE: Resolution Commemorating the Life and Contributions of Bob Graham,  
Former United States Senator and Florida Governor**

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Senator Maximo Toledo**

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Robert Graham was born on November 9th, 1936, and passed away on April 16th, 2024 at the age of 87 years old [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Robert Graham attended the University of Florida from 1955 until 1959 and served as the Chancellor of the Student Honor Court during his senior year [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career in public service, Senator Graham took a leadership role on behalf of public education, working to provide more opportunities for higher education assistance for college students [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, within the Harvard Law Institute of Politics and the Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Bob Graham was accepted as a resident fellow, which inspired him to open the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, established by Bob Graham at the University of Florida in 2006, serves to "create a community of students, scholars, and citizens who share a commitment to revitalizing the civic culture of Florida and the nation." [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bob Graham Center for Public Service has through its plethora of subdivisions, such as the BGC Fellows, Freshman Leadership Council, and LitiGators [5], equipped students with the tools and knowledge to uplift their communities and make an impact for posterity; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bob Graham stated that his mission, through the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, is to "encourage young people and people of all ages to learn about their communities by actually getting involved.... People need the opportunities to participate and they need the skills to participate effectively" [6], which remains effective today as the Center serves as a vital hub for discussion, engagement, leadership, and service; and,

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his profound impact on the University of Florida, Bob Graham served as the 38th Governor of Florida from 1978-1987, where he administered and implemented policies surrounding topics of education reform, economic improvement, and the increasing of programs for childcare and the elderly [7], and made particularly groundbreaking work in environmental activism with protection efforts like "Save Our Everglades," "Save Our Rivers," and "Save Our Coasts" [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, Bob Graham was elected to the United States Senate from 1987-2004, where he introduced impactful bills encompassing Everglades restoration efforts, foreign policy and national security, as well as serving as the Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence [9] [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bob Graham “pioneered a political style grounded in hard work and experiential learning – demonstrating that a politician can remain honest while achieving remarkable success.” According to Fox 5, he even “left office as governor with an 83% approval rating” and is “remembered on the national level for achieving remarkable progress during his time in office” [6] [10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, during his various campaign efforts and political career, Bob Graham demonstrated an exceptional ability to connect with his Floridian constituents [11]. He participated in over 400 full 8-hour “workdays,” in which he would work a variety of jobs, such as social work, criminal justice duties, tomato-picking, filling potholes, and more [12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bob Graham was recognized by the Chief State School Officers Association for making the "Most Outstanding Contribution to Education" in America [13]; now,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate commemorates the life and contributions of Bob Graham, Former United States Senator and Florida Governor, and celebrates his enduring legacy in public service, education, environmental advocacy, and civic engagement.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate honors Bob Graham’s dedication to improving the lives of Floridians through his exemplary leadership, integrity, and commitment to the values of democracy and community service.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate extends its deepest condolences to the Graham family and expresses gratitude for Bob Graham’s lifetime of service and his lasting impact on the University of Florida community as a whole.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Bob Graham Center Director Dr. Matt Jacobs, Student Body President Olivia Green.*

[1] <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/about/bob-graham/>

[2] [https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CDOC-108sdoc25/html/CDOC-108sdoc25.htm#:~:text=As%20a%20legislator%2C%20Graham%20was,and%20progress%20in%20public%20schools\\_](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CDOC-108sdoc25/html/CDOC-108sdoc25.htm#:~:text=As%20a%20legislator%2C%20Graham%20was,and%20progress%20in%20public%20schools_)

[3] <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2005/7/22/graham-to-come-to-iop-as/>

[4] <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/about/>

[5] <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/student-programs-and-groups/>

[6] <https://news.clas.ufl.edu/bob-graham-legacy/>

[7] <https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/news/politics/2024/04/17/bob-graham-former-florida-governor-us-senator-dies-known-working-days-accomplishments-skyway-bridge/73342635007/>

[8] <https://dos.fl.gov/florida-facts/florida-history/florida-governors/daniel-robert-graham/>

[9] <https://www.congress.gov/member/daniel-graham/G000352>

[10] <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/former-florida-governor-bob-graham-leaves-lasting-legacy-in-home-state-devoted-floridian>

[11] [https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/exhibits/photo\\_exhibits/bobgraham/](https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/exhibits/photo_exhibits/bobgraham/)

[12] <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/16/us/bob-graham-dead.html>

[13]

[https://www.bobgrahameducationcenter.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=2153513&type=d&pREC\\_ID=2169047](https://www.bobgrahameducationcenter.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2153513&type=d&pREC_ID=2169047)



4/25/24

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Monish Vijayaraghavan  
Senate President

Date