

**DISTRICT COURT,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO**

Denver County District Court
Denver City & County Bldg.
1437 Bannock Street, Room 256
Denver, Colorado 80202

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

Plaintiffs:

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION, INC.,
MIKE SMITH,
DAVID HABECKER,
TIMOTHY G. BAILEY and
JEFF BAYSINGER,

v.

Defendants:

BILL RITTER, JR., in his official capacity as
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, and
THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Case Number: 08CV9799

Courtroom: 19

ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:

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AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD L. BOLTON

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DANE)

RICHARD L. BOLTON, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says as follows:

1. I am one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the above captioned matter.

2. I make this affidavit in opposition to the defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment and in support of plaintiffs' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment.

3. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the deposition transcript of Craig Bannister, conducted on May 21, 2010.

4. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2004.

5. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2005.

6. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 4 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2006.

7. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2007.

8. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 6 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2008.

9. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 7 is a true and correct copy of the Colorado Day of Prayer Proclamation for 2009.

10. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 8 are true and correct copies of form letters sent by the National Day of Prayer Task Force to each state governor in 2005, 2006,

2007, 2008 and 2009, which were produced to affiant by Shirley Dobson during discovery in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

11. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 9 is a true and correct copy of a published report dated May 4, 2007, describing Governor Ritter's participation in Day of Prayer celebration at State Capitol.

12. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 10 is a true and correct copy of a published document identifying Governor Ritter's participation in the 2008 Colorado Prayer Luncheon.

13. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 11 is a true and correct copy of Application for Use of Capitol Grounds for Day of Prayer activities in 2006, produced by defendants.

14. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 12 is a true and correct copy of document produced by the defendants noting Governor Ritter's anticipated participation in 2007 Day of Prayer activities at the Capitol.

15. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 13 are true and correct copies of documents produced by the defendants describing Day of Prayer activities at the State Capitol.

16. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 14 are true and correct copies of NDP proclamations from 2008 by state governors, including proclamations by the governors of Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming, which proclamations include the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

17. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 15 are NDP prayer proclamations by state governors in 2007, including proclamations by the governors of Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming which include the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

18. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 16 are true and correct copies of NDP prayer proclamations by state governors in 2006, including proclamations by the governors of Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming which include the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

19. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 17 are true and correct copies of NDP prayer proclamations by state governors in 2005, including proclamations by the governors of Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming which include the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

20. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 18 are true and correct copies of NDP prayer proclamations by state governors in 2004, including proclamations by the governors of Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming which include the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

21. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 19 are true and correct copies of National Day of Prayer Proclamations issued by state governors in 2009, including proclamations from the governors of Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana,

Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming, which all include reference to the NDP Task Force annual theme and supporting scripture.

22. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 20 is a true and correct copy of a letter by Shirley Dobson to President Obama stating that the official presidential proclamation is integral to the yearly national observance in public venues and state houses throughout the country. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

23. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 21 is a true and correct copy of the February 2006 letter by Shirley Dobson to President Bush noting the President's crucial role in calling Americans to prayer. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

24. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 22 are true and correct copies of Shirley Dobson's letters to President Bush in March of 2007 and 2008 with draft Presidential Proclamations. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

25. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 23 is a true and correct copy of the form letter by Shirley Dobson to NDP Task Force state coordinators regarding the 2008 observance and emphasizing that it is especially vital to enlist the support and affirmation of our country's leaders, including proclamations by state governors. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

26. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 24 is a true and correct copy of a January 2009 letter by Shirley Dobson to NDP Task Force state coordinators requesting help in

obtaining written proclamations from governors and active participation in observances, most appropriately on the steps of the Capital buildings. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

27. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 25 is a true and correct copy of Mrs. Dobson's form letter in 2006 to NDP Task Force state coordinators requesting that proclamations from governors be obtained, with active participation in local prayer gatherings, ideally on the steps of the state Capital buildings. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

28. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 26 is a true and correct copy of a January 2007 letter by Shirley Dobson to NDP Task Force state coordinators stating that it is critical to garner support of national leaders, including by obtaining written proclamations from governors. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

29. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 27 is a true and correct copy of a January 2004 Letter by Mrs. Dobson to NDP Task Force state coordinators requesting signed proclamations, by governors and participation in local prayer gatherings, ideally on the steps of Capital buildings. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

30. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 28 is a true and correct copy of form letters sent by NDP Task Force to each state governor in 2009 requesting NDP proclamation. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

31. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 29 is a true and correct copy of form letters sent by NDP Task Force to each state governor in 2008 requesting NDP proclamation. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

32. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 30 is a true and correct copy of Mrs. Dobson's letter in 2006 to state governors requesting NDP proclamations and requesting each governor's support to further efforts to call the nation to prayer, while acknowledging the Creator. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

33. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 31 are true and correct copies of Mrs. Dobson's form letter to each governor in 2005 and 2006 requesting NDP proclamation. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

34. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 32 are true and correct copies of letters by Mrs. Dobson to federal officials requesting participation in Cannon Office Building NDP Observance. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

35. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 33 are true and correct copies of a Letter by Mrs. Dobson to federal officials participating in the 2008 Cannon Office Building NDP Observance. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

36. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 34 is a true and correct copy of March 2008 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Condoleezza Rice inviting her to represent the Executive Branch at Capital Hill prayer observance and requesting brief description of the significant

role prayer has played in Ms. Rice's personal and professional life. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

37. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 35 is a true and correct copy of February 2007 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Secretary Jim Nicholson inviting him to represent the Executive Branch at NDP Task Force observance at Cannon Office Building and requesting that Secretary Nicolson speak about the importance of prayer in his personal and professional life. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

38. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 36 is a true and correct copy of February 2005 Letter by Mrs. Dobson to South Dakota Governor requesting that he issue a NDP proclamation and noting that the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the fifty states. Mrs. Dobson further requests that the Governor's proclamation urge the people of South Dakota to assemble in order to pray. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

39. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 37 is a true and correct copy of February 2005 Letter by Shirley Dobson to President Bush with purposed draft of Presidential Proclamation, and noting that for many Americans, the Presidential Proclamation is an important symbol of affirmation of the National Day of Prayer observance. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

40. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 38 is a true and correct copy of March 2005 Letters by Shirley Dobson to Secretary Michael Johanns and Representative Tom

DeLay inviting participation at Cannon Office Building. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

41. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 39 is a true and correct copy of 2007 form Letter by Shirley Dobson to governors requesting that they lend support in the form of a public proclamation declaring a National Day of Prayer. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

42. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 40 is a true and correct copy of October 2004 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Senator Bill Frist requesting him to represent the Legislative Branch at 2005 Cannon Office Building observance, while noting that the National Day of Prayer is a celebrated memorial to our nation's Christian heritage. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

43. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 41 is a true and correct copy of December 2004 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Senator Rick Santorum requesting him to represent the Legislative Branch at 2005 Cannon House Building observance and further requesting the Senator to convey the prayer needs of the Legislative Branch as well as the role of prayer in his personal and professional life. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

44. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 42 is a true and correct copy of February 2004 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Representative Charles Stenholm regarding his participation in 2004 Cannon Office Building observance by NDP Task Force. Mrs. Dobson also notes that "foundational to our country has been the understanding that God is the Source of our freedom." This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

45. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 43 is a true and correct copy of May 2006 Letter by Mrs. Dobson to Chaplain Barry Black of the United States Senate thanking his participation in 2006 Cannon Office Building observance and noting that Mrs. Dobson is overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of prayer and repentance that encompassed the Nation as hands joined together to cry out to God and hearts were changed and hope was restored. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

46. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 44 is a true and correct copy of February 2004 Letter by Mrs. Dobson to Secretary Roderick Paige regarding his participation in 2004 Cannon Office Building prayer observance, while noting that the Capital Hill observance is symbolic of the celebrations taking place throughout the land. Mrs. Dobson hopes that the NDP Task Force scriptural message will be a catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look to him for guidance with their personal concerns. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

47. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 45 is a true and correct copy of April 2006 Letter by Shirley Dobson to Secretary Elaine Chao regarding her participation in 2006 Cannon Office Building observance and noting that NDP Task Force scriptural support is intended to draw Americans closer to God for guidance. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

48. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 46 is a true and correct copy of a draft Letter of Thanks by Shirley Dobson to Congressmen who attended the 2005 Cannon Office Building observance, and whose commitment to praying for the United States is said to set

an inspiring example for fellow citizens. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

49. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 47 are true and correct copies of Letters from President Bush to Shirley Dobson thanking her for her commitment to prayer. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

50. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 48 are true and correct copies of National Day of Prayer Task Force programs for Cannon Caucus Room observances for 2004-2009. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

51. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 49 are true and correct copies of posters for 2009 NDP Cannon Office Building observance by NDP Task Force. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

52. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 50 is a true and correct copy of NDP Task Force list of Executive Branch Representatives for 1999-2008 at Cannon Office Building NDP observances. This document was produced to affiant in litigation relating to the National Day of Prayer.

53. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 51 is a true and correct copy of a page from the NDP Task Force website describing its mission, values and statement of Judeo-Christian orientation.

54. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 52 is a true and correct copy of a page from the NDP Task Force website describing "What makes prayer work."

55. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 53 is a true and correct copy of a page from the NDP Task Force website explaining "Why we pray."

56. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 54 is a true and correct copy of a page from the NDP Task Force website explaining “What is prayer and why people should pray.”

57. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 55 are true and correct copies of materials from the NDP Task Force regarding coordinator applications and the limitation to Judeo-Christian believers.

58. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 56 is a true and correct copy of a page from the NDP Task Force website describing the magnitude of the 2008 National Day of Prayer celebration and identifying public official participation.

59. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 57 is a true and correct copy of a page from the National Prayer Committee website noting the involvement of the Prayer Committee and NDP Task Force Chairman in obtaining legislation in 1988 to designate the first Thursday in May of each year as a National Day of Prayer.

60. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 58 are true and correct copies of news articles reporting the pressure put on New York Governor Eliott Spitzer in 2007 to issue a NDP Proclamation.

61. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 59 is a true and correct copy of a news article describing the pressure put on Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura to issue a NDP Proclamation in 1999.

62. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 60 and 61 are true and correct copies of news reports from April 2008 announcing that all fifty governors issued National Day of Prayer Proclamations.

63. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 62 are true and correct copies of articles describing the magnitude of the 2008 NDP celebrations.

64. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 63 is a true and correct copy of a UPI report dated January 29, 1983, noting that President Reagan declared a National Day of Prayer on May 5, in order to bring renewed respect for God.

65. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 64 is a true and correct copy of a page from a National Prayer Committee website noting its purpose to provide leadership to the National Prayer Movement.

66. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 65 is a true and correct copy of a page from the National Day of Prayer Task Force website soliciting funds in order to communicate the need for personal repentance and prayer to every family and to mobilize American believers to prayer.

67. Attached as Exhibits 66-92 are true and correct copies of publicly available reports indicating the divisiveness of recent National Day of Prayer Declarations and Observances.

68. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 93 is a true and correct copy of an encyclopedia description of the National Day of Prayer as “a day designated by the United States Congress as a day when people are asked to come together and pray, especially for their country.”

69. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 94 is a true and correct copy of a research report from Harvard University describing the National Day of Prayer, including the involvement of Reverend Billy Graham in the passage of 1952 of legislation mandating a National Day of Prayer.

70. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 95 is a true and correct copy of Plaintiff Mike Smith's Interrogatory Answers.

71. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 96 is a true and correct copy of Plaintiff David Habecker's Interrogatory Answers.

72. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 97 is a true and correct copy of Plaintiff Jeff Baysinger's Interrogatory Answers.

73. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 98 are true and correct copies of Letters written by FFRF to state governors in 2005 requesting issuance of secular proclamations to balance NDP proclamations.

74. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 99 is a true and correct copy of FFRF's report on request to governors to balance prayer proclamations by issuing freethought proclamations.

75. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 100 are true and correct copies of exemplar articles reporting on President Bush's promotion of prayer, particularly by the NDP Task Force.

76. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 101 is a true and correct copy of a published description of the National Day of Prayer and its relationship with the NDP Task Force, including the Task Forces' commitment to the Lausanne Covenant, subscribed to by Fundamentalists and Evangelical Protestants.

77. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 102 is a true and correct copy of a statement by the National Prayer Committee regarding the National Day of Prayer, described as "An Act of Congress which encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders."

78. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 103 is a true and correct copy of the Judiciary Committee Report in 1952 on National Day of Prayer legislation, which report

concluded that it would be appropriate if pursuant to the resolution people of the country united in a day of prayer, thus reaffirming in a dramatic manner the deep religious conviction which has supposedly prevailed throughout the history of the United States.

79. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 104 is a true and correct copy of a New York Times article, dated April 18, 1952, announcing President Truman's signing of the Prayer Day Bill, the purpose of which is to have the public assemble to offer prayers for world peace.

80. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 105 is a true and correct copy of an FFRF article noting the increase in the number of Americans that identify with no religion, which is the fastest-growing segment of the United States population.

81. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 106 are true and correct pages from the Campus Crusade for Christ website with biography of Vonette Bright.

82. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 107 are true and correct copies of Congressional Record Reports of Comments by Congressman Tony Hall regarding 1988 NDP Bill.

83. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 108 are true and correct pages from the Congressional Record with comments by speakers, including Pat Boone, regarding 1988 NDP Bill.

84. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 109 is a true and correct copy of the 1988 National Day of Prayer Amendment Act as enacted.

85. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 110 are true and correct copies from the Campus Crusade for Christ web page describing its purpose and size.

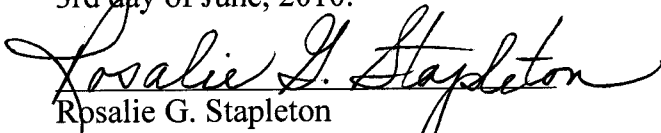
86. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 111 is a true and correct copy of the deposition transcript of Shirley Dobson, which deposition was conducted on November 10, 2009.

87. Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 112 is a true and correct copy of an article posted on September 28, 2008, in which Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-VA, refers to the National Day of Prayer as a "monumental religious event."



Richard L. Bolton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
3rd day of June, 2010.



Rosalie G. Stapleton
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My Commission expires: 9/1/2013

EXHIBIT 1

DISTRICT COURT
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
STATE OF COLORADO

1437 Bannock Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Plaintiffs:
FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION,
INC.; MIKE SMITH; DAVID HABECKER;
TIMOTHY G. BAILEY; and
JEFF BAYSINGER

Defendants:
BILL RITTER, JR., in his official
capacity as GOVERNOR OF THE STATE
OF COLORADO; and THE STATE OF
COLORADO

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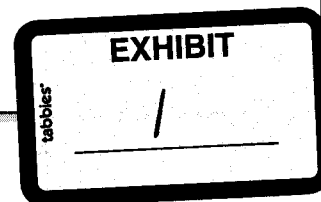
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* Attorney of Record

Case No.:
08CV9799

Ctrm: 9

DEPOSITION OF CRAIG BANNISTER

PURSUANT TO NOTICE, the above-entitled
deposition was taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs at the
offices of the Colorado Attorney General, 1525 Sherman
Street, 7th Floor, Denver, Colorado, on Friday, May 21,
2010, at 8:31 a.m., before Teresa Chaplin, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public.



1 APPEARANCES:

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were
3 taken pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Civil
4 Procedure.

5 * * * * *

6 CRAIG BANNISTER,

7 having been first duly sworn to state the whole truth,
8 testified as follows:

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. BOLTON:

11 Q. And you are ...

12 A. Craig Bannister.

13 Q. And what is your position, employment
14 position?

15 A. My title is senior press associate.

16 Q. Press what?

17 A. Press associate.

18 Q. And I'm going to apologize in advance. I
19 don't hear particularly well, so I'll probably be
20 asking you to repeat things. And I'm not trying to be
21 difficult.

22 A. I'll try and speak loudly.

23 Q. So is that a position -- is there a press
24 secretary or is that more or less the job that you
25 have? You said press associate is the ...

1 A. Yes. So we have a director of
2 communications.

3 Q. Okay. And then in terms of the
4 hierarchy, then, do you report to the director of
5 communications then?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And who is the director of
8 communications?

9 A. Evan Dreyer.

10 Q. What's the last name?

11 A. Dreyer, D-R-E-Y-E-R.

12 Q. And has he been the director of
13 communications throughout the governorship of Governor
14 Ritter?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now, you've been a senior press associate
17 throughout Governor Ritter's governorship; correct?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. When did you begin -- you worked
20 for Governor Owens; is that right?

21 A. (Indicated.)

22 Q. And what position did you have with
23 Governor Owens?

24 A. My title has changed quite a bit. I
25 believe I started as press assistant.

1 Q. Okay. And then you continued on with
2 Governor Ritter, then; correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And when did you become senior press
5 associate?

6 A. I believe the official title was given in
7 2009.

8 Q. What was your position before 2009?

9 A. Communications assistant. It's pretty
10 informal over there.

11 Q. Did your duties change significantly in
12 2009?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. You're familiar with the National
15 Day of Prayer; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When did you first become aware of the
18 National Day of Prayer?

19 A. I couldn't give you a date, I'm sorry.

20 Q. Pardon?

21 A. I couldn't give you a date.

22 Q. Was it -- do you know of the National Day
23 of Prayer outside your job responsibilities?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You became aware of the National Day of

1 Prayer in your capacity as a state employee?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me how you first became
4 aware? And again, I don't know you don't recall
5 specifically, what do you recall about how you became
6 aware of the National Day of Prayer?

7 A. To the best of my recollection, via I
8 believe it was a proclamation request. But again, you
9 know, we're going back six years, five years,
10 four years maybe.

11 Q. And was that the proclamation request by
12 the National Day of Prayer Task Force?

13 A. I couldn't tell you that. I don't know.

14 Q. Do you recall whether the request came
15 from Ms. Shirley Dobson?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. Do you know who Mrs. Dobson is?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know -- have you heard of the
20 National Day of Prayer Task Force?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And do you recall when you first became
23 aware of the task force?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you know what the task force is, the

1 National Day of Prayer Task Force?

2 A. I have an idea.

3 Q. What is your idea?

4 A. The extent of my knowledge about this
5 task force is they request proclamations from governors
6 around the nation.

7 Q. And do you know anything -- the task
8 force is -- do you know them, the task force, to be
9 involved in organizing National Day of Prayer
10 activities each year?

11 A. I don't.

12 Q. When you became aware of the National Day
13 of Prayer via the request for a proclamation, was that
14 something that you handled, that you processed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what do you recall about the first
17 time that you had to deal with the request for a
18 proclamation?

19 A. To the best of my recollection, we looked
20 at the request, checked it with my boss, found that it
21 had been done in the past --

22 Q. It had or had not?

23 A. It had been done in the past, and
24 therefore, we updated the language.

25 Q. And was this while you were working for

1 Governor Owens?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know when the governor's office
4 first began issuing National Day of Prayer
5 proclamations?

6 A. I do not.

7 Q. But it preceded Governor Owens?

8 A. I do not know that.

9 Q. I guess I misunderstood. When you -- you
10 had a -- when you were dealing with a request for a
11 proclamation, you talked to your boss, you said?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. And that would have been the director of
14 communications?

15 A. I'm not sure what his title was at the
16 time, but he was directly above me.

17 Q. Okay. And I thought I understood you to
18 say that it had been done before.

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. By Governor Owens or his predecessor?

21 A. As far as I know, Governor Owens.

22 MR. GROVE: If I could clarify, I think
23 that Mr. Bannister's tenure was not coincident with the
24 beginning of the Owens administration.

25 MR. BOLTON: Okay. I may have

1 misunderstood your affidavit.

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) When did you begin work
3 for Governor Owens?

4 A. I became a full-time employee in June of
5 2006.

6 Q. Okay. And you were told that similar
7 proclamations had been issued in the past; right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And there was a similar proclamation in
10 word processing, basically?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then you updated the one in the
13 system basically for, was it 2006, then?

14 A. I believe so, yes.

15 Q. Governor Ritter became governor in 2007;
16 is that correct?

17 A. He was elected in November of 2006.

18 Q. 2006. Yeah. Okay. Did you actually
19 have -- the request for a proclamation had come to you
20 in a written form?

21 A. I can't remember.

22 Q. My understanding is that, at least the
23 proclamations that I have seen, each one, at least from
24 2004 to 2008, included a reference to an annual theme
25 and a scriptural reference; are you aware of that?

1 A. Sounds about right, yeah.

2 Q. And did you continue -- were you the
3 person who continued to update the proclamations after
4 the first one that you did in 2006?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And other than modifying the
7 annual theme and the scriptural reference, did you do
8 anything on an annual basis to the proclamations? Did
9 you change anything?

10 A. You're going to have to be more specific.

11 Q. With regard to -- for instance, when
12 you -- you got a request each year, then?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. When you got a request in 2007,
15 you went back to the 2006 proclamation; correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And you changed the annual theme;
18 correct?

19 A. We changed the dates, and to the best of
20 my recollection -- to the best of my recollection, we
21 changed some of the wording in the proclamation.

22 Q. And are you aware that the proclamations
23 from 2004 at least until 2008 included a reference to
24 an annual National Day of Prayer theme?

25 A. What do you mean by "theme"?

1 Q. Well, let's see.

2 (Exhibit 1 was marked.)

3 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) First I'm going to show
4 you a proclamation from 2004. And I understand that
5 that precedes when you began working for the governor's
6 office. But have you seen -- does this look like the
7 format for the proclamations that you were involved in
8 preparing?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In the fourth paragraph, the fourth
11 "whereas" paragraph there's a reference to, it says, in
12 2004, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges Leviticus
13 with the theme 'Let Freedom Ring'; do you see that?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Did you make similar -- is that one of
16 the paragraphs that you would modify on an annual
17 basis?

18 A. I don't recall it ever saying the theme
19 or referring to a theme.

20 Q. Okay. Now, with regard to the
21 proclamations, though, is the format from the 2004 one
22 basically the format that you're familiar with?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And so this is basically the
25 format that you would then tweak on an annual basis; is

1 that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And it concludes by proclaiming a
4 Colorado Day of Prayer; correct?

5 A. This one?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the ones that you also were involved
9 with also proclaimed a Colorado Day of Prayer; correct?

10 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

11 Q. And they include the state seal; is that
12 correct? Is that what you see there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then the governor's signature;
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I guess it says -- perhaps, is that
18 the executive seal of the state of Colorado, is that
19 what the seal is?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And is the governor, is that -- is the
22 executive seal something that is used exclusively by
23 the governor?

24 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
25 speculation.

1 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) If you know.

2 A. I mean, to my knowledge, yes.

3 Q. The proclamations that you were involved
4 in preparing, they were then issued; correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And they were issued as a proclamation by
7 the governor; correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And my understanding is that the
10 signature on at least some of them that you were
11 involved with was not -- the governor didn't actually
12 sit and sign it, but you had a stamp that you used; is
13 that correct?

14 A. Yes. Not a stamp, it actually signs it.

15 Q. But that -- you were authorized by the
16 governor to use that form of signature; correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in terms of the issuance, then, of
19 these proclamations, that was done with the
20 authorization and consent of the governor; correct?

21 A. That's a little open-ended.

22 Q. Well, did you do it -- did you have
23 authority to -- I mean, would you actually be the
24 person, then, that would put the signature on the
25 proclamation?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you have authority to do that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. On behalf of the governor?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What is your understanding of what a
7 proclamation is?

8 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for a legal
9 conclusion. Go ahead and answer.

10 A. It's an honorary document that recognizes
11 certain people, groups, causes.

12 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And people request
13 honorary proclamations from the governor's office?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And they request proclamations in order
16 to add some support for whatever their event is or
17 whatever it is from the governor's office?

18 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
19 speculation. Go ahead and answer.

20 A. I mean, I can't say what they ask for
21 them for, but I would imagine that it's something along
22 those lines, yes.

23 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you understand that
24 the proclamations -- well, when you -- when the
25 governor's office issues a proclamation, are there any

1 restrictions put on what can be done with a
2 proclamation?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
4 speculation.

5 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you know?

6 A. I'm sorry, could you ask that one again?

7 Q. Well, for instance, the proclamations
8 that you were involved in preparing, after you prepared
9 the proclamation, what would you do with it?

10 A. I would give the requesting party a hard
11 copy of the proclamation.

12 Q. And would you tell -- would you mail it
13 to them or ...

14 A. If they requested it to be mailed, yes,
15 sir, we would mail it to them.

16 Q. With regard to the Day of Prayer
17 proclamations, do you recall how you conveyed that to
18 the requester?

19 A. No. Sorry.

20 Q. Whether you mail it -- if you mailed the
21 proclamation to the requester, would there be a cover
22 letter that would go with it?

23 A. No. We would literally slide it into an
24 envelope with a cardboard backing and mail it to the
25 address.

1 Q. And so it's sent out -- it's issued with,
2 it looks like, an official formal document of the
3 governor's then; correct?

4 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
5 speculation.

6 A. I mean, to the point that it's got a
7 state seal and the governor's signature, yes.

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you tell the
9 requester that there's any limitations on what they can
10 do with the proclamation?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you understand that the proclamations
13 are used, at least by some requesters, to promote their
14 activities?

15 MR. GROVE: Objection, calls for
16 speculation. Relevance. Go ahead and answer.

17 A. I would imagine so, yes.

18 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you know, with regard
19 to the Day of Prayer proclamations, that they are used
20 as part of the promotion of the annual event?

21 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
22 speculation. Relevancy. Go ahead and answer.

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Are there -- is the Day
25 of Prayer one of the -- have you seen it celebrated

1 around the capitol before?

2 A. I -- yes. The first time was actually a
3 little earlier this month.

4 Q. And in your affidavit I think you
5 indicated that -- and let me give you a copy of your
6 affidavit.

7 (Exhibit 2 was marked.)

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Exhibit 2 is an
9 affidavit that you signed in the litigation that we're
10 involved in now; is that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Paragraph 25 of your affidavit you
13 indicate that "The governor's office did not issue a
14 press release or otherwise publicize the Colorado Day
15 of Prayer proclamations in 2007, 2008, or 2009"; do you
16 see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are you aware that at least in 2007, the
19 governor actually attended a National Day of Prayer
20 celebration at the capitol?

21 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy. Go
22 ahead and answer.

23 A. That became the knowledge, after this
24 lawsuit was brought, to me.

25 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) But you do have that

1 knowledge, though? You know that right now?

2 A. Right now, yes.

3 Q. And the governor actually spoke at at
4 least the 2007 day of prayer activities at the capitol;
5 correct?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Foundation. Go
7 ahead and answer.

8 A. That's what I've been told, yes.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you know that the
10 governor actually read the 2007 proclamation at the
11 2007 day of prayer activities at the capitol?

12 A. I did not know that.

13 Q. With regard to the 2010 proclamation, a
14 proclamation was issued; is that correct?

15 A. I'm sorry, say that then again.

16 Q. Was a proclamation issued for the day of
17 prayer in 2010?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know when it was issued?

20 A. Earlier this year.

21 Q. Was it issued shortly before the National
22 Day of Prayer, if you know?

23 A. If I had to give a time frame, I would
24 say somewhere between February and early April. But
25 again, to the best of my recollection.

1 Q. And that request for a proclamation went
2 to the National Day of Prayer Task Force in 2010; is
3 that correct?

4 A. I couldn't tell you that.

5 Q. Were you involved in the preparation of
6 the 2010 proclamation?

7 A. I was final sign-off, yes.

8 Q. Pardon?

9 A. I was final sign-off.

10 Q. Was there anything -- between 2008 and
11 2009, do you recall making any changes to the National
12 Day of Prayer or the day of prayer proclamation?

13 A. 2008 and 2009?

14 Q. Right.

15 A. Do you have the documents?

16 Q. Pardon?

17 A. Do you have the documents?

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. If I could see them, I could tell you
20 real quick if we did them or not.

21 (Exhibits 3 and 4 were marked.)

22 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Exhibit 3 is the 2008
23 proclamation; is that correct, for the Day of Prayer?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And Exhibit 4 is the 2009 Colorado Day of

1 Prayer proclamation; is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And exhibit -- or the 2008 proclamation,
4 Exhibit 3, includes, in the fourth "whereas" paragraph,
5 a reference to a particular bible passage; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that particular passage that was
9 included in the 2008 proclamation, would you have been
10 responsible for inserting that into that particular
11 proclamation?

12 A. I don't believe I would have inserted it.
13 I believe it was probably there from the year before.

14 Q. Pardon?

15 A. I don't believe I inserted that. I
16 believe it would have been there from the year before.

17 Q. In Exhibit 4, the 2009 proclamation,
18 there is not any reference to any biblical passage; is
19 that correct?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Do you recall, were you involved in the
22 preparation of the 2009 proclamation?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recall why you took out or did not
25 include any biblical reference in the 2009

1 proclamation?

2 MR. GROVE: Mr. Bolton, you may be
3 getting into privileged areas here. Could you lay a
4 foundation?

5 MR. BOLTON: Sure.

6 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) What was your
7 involvement, first of all, in the preparation of the
8 2009 proclamation?

9 A. I believe I received a request, and then
10 I believe I sought legal advice from our legal counsel.

11 Q. And you sought legal advice because of
12 the pending litigation; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And in terms of why the biblical
15 reference is not included in Exhibit 4, in the 2009
16 proclamation, was that a decision that you made on your
17 own? And let me ask this: Can you answer why that was
18 or was not, why a biblical reference was or was not
19 included in the 2009 proclamation, without disclosing
20 any communications from counsel?

21 A. I can't. I cannot.

22 Q. In other words, the governor didn't tell
23 you to specifically exclude that; right?

24 A. He did not.

25 Q. Do you know whether or not any biblical

1 reference was included in the 2010 day of prayer
2 proclamation?

3 A. It was not, to the best of my
4 recollection.

5 Q. And you would have been involved in the
6 2010 proclamation?

7 A. Yes.

8 (Exhibit 5 was marked.)

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you recognize
10 Exhibit 5 as the 2007 day of prayer proclamation?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Comparing Exhibit 5 with Exhibit 3, so
13 looking at the 2007 and the 2008 day of prayer
14 proclamations, do you see that in the fourth "whereas"
15 paragraph of the proclamation that the biblical
16 reference is different between the two?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you recall changing the biblical
19 reference on an annual basis?

20 A. I don't specifically recall this one. It
21 looks like something we would update.

22 Q. Do you recall inserting the biblical
23 reference on an annual basis as a reference that was
24 supplied to you by the requester of the proclamation?

25 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

1 Q. Do you recognize the references in both
2 Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 5 to be biblical references?

3 A. They look to be, yes.

4 Q. Do you recall including any religious
5 reference in any of the day of prayer proclamations
6 that included some religious reference that was not a
7 biblical reference?

8 MR. GROVE: Objection. Vague. Could you
9 clarify "religious reference"?

10 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) The 2009 and 2010
11 proclamations, my understanding is, did not include any
12 scriptural reference such as we see in Exhibit 3 and 5;
13 correct?

14 A. That looks to be correct.

15 (Exhibit 6 was marked.)

16 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you recognize
17 Exhibit 6 as being the 2006 day of prayer proclamation?

18 A. I mean, it looks like it to me, yes.

19 Q. And in the fourth "whereas" paragraph of
20 the 2006 proclamation there is also a biblical
21 reference; is that correct?

22 A. Looks to be, yes. Assuming Samuel's in
23 the bible, I'm not sure.

24 Q. Did you ever include anything in any of
25 the proclamations to your knowledge that was not a

1 reference from the bible?

2 A. Not to my recollection.

3 Q. And prior to this one --

4 MR. GROVE: Yeah, I don't think

5 Mr. Bannister is done answering.

6 A. I should probably make it clear that 2006
7 was not done by me.

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. You were not
9 involved in the 2006. So 2007 would have been the
10 first proclamation that you were directly involved in?

11 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

12 Q. Okay. So the first request that you got
13 for a proclamation, whether you actually got the
14 request in 2006 or not, was for the 2007 day of prayer;
15 is that correct?

16 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

17 Q. And again, other than what counsel may
18 have told you, what is your knowledge of the -- of
19 Governor Ritter's participation in Day of Prayer
20 activities at the capitol?

21 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
22 speculation. Go ahead and answer.

23 A. Other than what legal counsel has told
24 me?

25 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Right.

1 A. I have no recollection of the governor
2 participating in it.

3 Q. So your only knowledge of the governor's
4 participation -- you would not have independent
5 knowledge of any of the governor's participation?

6 A. Unless I was staffing him, no. And I
7 don't recall ever staffing him at a Day of Prayer.

8 Q. After 2007 in the newspaper there were
9 references to Governor Ritter's participation in Day of
10 Prayer activities at the capitol. Do you recall
11 reading any of those?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. Do you know whether -- well, do you know,
14 as we sit here today, that the National Day of Prayer
15 has generated some controversy?

16 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
17 speculation.

18 A. Define "controversy."

19 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Well, has it been in the
20 news?

21 A. I know there's a lawsuit pending against
22 the State of Colorado, if that counts.

23 Q. But other than your awareness of the
24 lawsuit, you're not aware of anything in the media or
25 elsewhere about the National Day of Prayer?

1 A. I have heard there's some -- something
2 going on with the National Day of Prayer.

3 Q. Okay. You've never had any understanding
4 that the National Day of Prayer activities on an annual
5 basis are controversial?

6 A. Prior to this lawsuit?

7 Q. Right.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Again, other than discussions with
10 counsel, are you aware of any discussions in the
11 governor's office about discontinuing the practice of
12 issuing Day of Prayer proclamations?

13 A. Other than my discussions with legal
14 counsel?

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. No, I'm not aware.

17 Q. The Day of Prayer --

18 MR. GROVE: Just to be clear, you weren't
19 divulging anything that was involved in those
20 discussions, you're just saying you're not going to
21 discuss?

22 MR. BOLTON: Yeah, I didn't construe it
23 any other way. And just so we're clear, I'm not trying
24 to get at communications that you've had with counsel.

25 MR. GROVE: I just wanted to make sure we

1 weren't going in that direction.

2 MR. BOLTON: Yeah. No.

3 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) But again, other than
4 with counsel, you're not aware of any discussions
5 within the governor's office about whether the
6 governor's office should or should not issue Day of
7 Prayer proclamations?

8 THE DEPONENT: I have a question on that
9 one. Am I allowed to consult with you? I've got a
10 question for my attorney.

11 MR. GROVE: If this involves a question
12 of privilege, then yes, absolutely.

13 THE DEPONENT: Can we step outside?

14 MR. GROVE: Yeah, let's step out for a
15 second.

16 (Pause in proceedings.)

17 MR. GROVE: Mr. Bolton, could you repeat
18 the question?

19 MR. BOLTON: Can you read the question
20 back?

21 (The last question was read back.)

22 THE DEPONENT: Was there a question after
23 that? I don't think that's the question I had a
24 question about.

25 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Can you answer the

1 question?

2 A. That question?

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. Yeah, if you can read it back to me.

5 MR. GROVE: I think he may have just

6 misheard the question to begin with.

7 THE DEPONENT: Yeah, that could have been

8 it.

9 MR. GROVE: I think I did, too, actually.

10 (The question on page 28, lines 3 through

11 7, was read back.)

12 A. No.

13 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. Have you
14 discussed the Day of Prayer proclamations directly with
15 the governor?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Have you discussed any issues relating to
18 the Day of Prayer proclamations with the director of
19 communications outside the presence of counsel?

20 A. Yes. Just to seek legal counsel.

21 Q. Pardon?

22 A. Just to seek legal counsel.

23 Q. And did the director then seek legal
24 counsel or did you go and seek the legal counsel then?

25 A. I don't know if he sought legal counsel.

1 Q. But you did?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. What is your understanding of what the
4 Colorado Day of Prayer is?

5 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
6 speculation. Foundation.

7 A. Can you be more specific?

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Well, the governor has
9 been issuing, at least since 2004, proclamations
10 proclaiming a particular day as the Colorado Day of
11 Prayer. What is your understanding of what that means?
12 What does it mean to proclaim a Colorado Day of Prayer?

13 MR. GROVE: In addition, objection, calls
14 for legal conclusion. Go ahead.

15 A. My understanding is that people in groups
16 across the state and nation request that their activity
17 on this day be acknowledged as a Day of Prayer.

18 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And what does that mean,
19 to acknowledge a Day of Prayer? You understand that
20 the National Day of Prayer Task Force organizes
21 activities around the Day of Prayer in order to promote
22 prayer?

23 A. I do know that now.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know when you first learned
25 that?

1 A. As a result of this lawsuit.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know that the National Day
3 of Prayer Task Force uses the proclamations issued by
4 the governor to indicate endorsement by government
5 officials of the Day of Prayer?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
7 speculation. Calls for a legal conclusion. Vague.
8 Could you further define "endorsement," please?

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you understand the
10 word "endorsement"? Is that a word that you --

11 A. Once you define it a little better.

12 Q. Sure. In other words, it's a word that
13 you've never heard before?

14 A. No, I've heard the word "endorsement"
15 before.

16 Q. And do you have a common understanding of
17 what "endorsement" means?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What is your layman's understanding of
20 the word "endorsement"?

21 A. My layman's understanding would be that
22 to endorse something would be to throw your full
23 support behind it.

24 Q. And do you understand that when the
25 governor issues a proclamation, that he's indicating

1 his support for whatever it is that is the subject of
2 the proclamation?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
4 speculation. Go ahead.

5 A. I believe he endorses recognizing this
6 group's right to celebrate the Day of Prayer.

7 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And do you know that the
8 National Day of Prayer Task Force uses the
9 proclamations, such as by the Colorado governor, as
10 evidence of government support for their activities?

11 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
12 speculation. Go ahead.

13 A. I know that now as a result of this
14 lawsuit.

15 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. When the governor
16 issues a proclamation, is there any prohibition that
17 you are aware of --

18 A. I'm sorry, could we go back to the last
19 question?

20 MR. BOLTON: Sure.

21 MR. GROVE: Do you mind reading that
22 back? I'm not sure that I was quite clear on it. Is
23 it too late to do that?

24 MR. BOLTON: Huh-uh.

25 MR. GROVE: No. If you have something to

1 correct, absolutely, let's correct it now.

2 THE DEPONENT: I just want to make sure I
3 was completely accurate.

4 (The question on page 32, lines 7 through
5 10, was read back.)

6 A. I know that they use them. I didn't know
7 that they were specifically saying Governor Ritter
8 endorses, you know, whatever it is that they're saying,
9 because I don't know what they're saying.

10 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. When you say you
11 know they use them, what do you mean by that?

12 A. Well, as a result of this lawsuit, they
13 had the governor read it in 2007. And I know -- I
14 believe I heard somewhere throughout this whole
15 litigation process they were either posting on their
16 Web site or using it in some way to promote the Day of
17 Prayer.

18 Q. And it's not a surprise to you that
19 people who get proclamations would circulate them; is
20 that correct?

21 A. No, that's not a surprise to me.

22 Q. And certainly, the requesters of a
23 proclamation are not told by the governor's office that
24 they cannot circulate the proclamation; correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And they're not told that they cannot
2 tout the proclamation as the governor's support for
3 whatever the subject of the proclamation is; correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And in 2009, did you convey the
6 proclamation for 2009 to the requester?

7 A. Either myself or an intern did, yes.

8 Q. Were they told -- do you know, was any --
9 did you tell the requester, in this case the National
10 Day of Prayer Task Force, or have some subordinate
11 communicate to them that they should not -- that there
12 were limitations on what they could do with the
13 proclamation?

14 A. No. That's not a general practice in our
15 office.

16 Q. Now, in your affidavit, in paragraph 8
17 you indicate that honorary proclamations must be
18 accompanied by draft language. Paragraph 8 would be on
19 the first page of your affidavit.

20 A. Thank you.

21 Q. To your knowledge, did you get draft
22 language each year from the National Day of Prayer Task
23 Force in regard to the Colorado Day of Prayer
24 proclamation?

25 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

1 Q. And in paragraph 8 you also indicate that
2 when a request is submitted, your staff and you review
3 it for content; do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what do you mean by that?

6 A. We take a look at what their draft
7 language says. We take a look at the requesting group.
8 And we basically deem if it's for a good cause; and
9 there's no issues with the group or the language --
10 with the group, we will issue it. And then we do take
11 a look at the language, also.

12 Q. In paragraph 9 of your affidavit you
13 indicate that if the content of the requested
14 proclamation does not seem to be problematic or if it's
15 similar to an honorary proclamation approved and issued
16 in a previous year, it is approved without further
17 review; do you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What did you mean by if the content does
20 not seem to be problematic?

21 A. For example, if it's generally for a good
22 cause, such as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we check
23 the language. If that doesn't seem to be problematic
24 and the governor supports it, then we would issue it.

25 Q. In paragraph 12 of your affidavit you

1 indicate that, as I understand it, sometimes you may
2 conclude that a letter of congratulations or
3 recognition is more appropriate than an honorary
4 proclamation; do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What's the distinction you're making
7 there? How do you decide whether or not something is
8 more appropriately addressed as a letter of recognition
9 rather than a proclamation?

10 A. That's a judgment call by myself.

11 Q. And how --

12 A. And possibly the director of
13 communications, possibly.

14 Q. And I mean, in making that judgment, how
15 do you differentiate between whether something is more
16 appropriately a proclamation, as opposed to warranting
17 a letter of congratulations or recognition?

18 A. A good way to explain this would be, a
19 lot of the general public doesn't understand the
20 difference between a proclamation and a letter, so they
21 don't know the final document they're receiving.

22 So for example, when the general public
23 isn't able to go on our Web site and request a
24 proclamation or a letter or a flag or something from
25 our drop-down menu, many times they don't understand

1 what the final product is going to be.

2 So for example, you'll get little Joe,
3 who's 4 years old, in Florida, asking for a
4 proclamation, recognizing Little Joe Day. And at that
5 point I would take that request and say, this is more
6 appropriate to be a birthday congratulatory letter from
7 the governor.

8 Q. Is one of the differences, then, the
9 difference in terms of the anticipated audience? For
10 instance, a proclamation would -- well, the birthday
11 congratulations would be more individualized, as
12 opposed to a proclamation?

13 A. I wouldn't say -- I mean, audience could
14 be a factor, but I don't recall audience ever being a
15 reason we would do a letter, as opposed to a
16 proclamation; or a proclamation, as opposed to a
17 letter.

18 Q. And in terms of the Day of Prayer
19 proclamations, did you conclude that they were
20 appropriate to be issued in proclamation form rather
21 than some other letter of congratulations or
22 recognition?

23 A. I did, based on the knowledge that I --
24 that we had done it the year before, or it had been
25 issued the year before.

1 Q. Did you make any investigation into the
2 nature of the requester?

3 A. I'm sorry, say that again.

4 Q. Did you look into -- for instance, you
5 said, in evaluating potential proclamations, one of the
6 things you look at is whether it's, you know, for a
7 good cause or, you know, whether the requester is, I
8 don't think you use this, but a reputable organization;
9 is that a fair description of what -- some of the
10 things you're looking for?

11 A. A general proc -- yes.

12 Q. And with regard to the Day of Prayer
13 proclamations, did you make any investigation as to who
14 was requesting the proclamation?

15 A. To the best of my recollection, no. I'd
16 seen it issued the year before. I'd asked my boss at
17 the time, and then issued it.

18 Q. Now, have you ever met Mrs. Dobson?

19 A. I have not.

20 Q. Have you ever met Mr. Dobson?

21 A. I have not.

22 Q. You know who James Dobson and
23 Shirley Dobson are, though; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you know whether the governor is

1 personally familiar with the Dobsons?

2 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
3 speculation. Go ahead.

4 A. I personally do not know if the governor
5 knows them.

6 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) With regard to the
7 letter requests for proclamations, just in general, is
8 the request --

9 A. The letter request or the proclamation
10 request?

11 Q. The form in which the request is made,
12 whether it be a letter or an E-mail or -- you know, in
13 some fashion the request is made to the governor's
14 office; correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Is there any document retention policy in
17 the governor's office as to documents requesting
18 proclamations?

19 A. I keep them -- the general rule of thumb
20 for myself is I keep requests for 30 days. And this is
21 just so I'm able to go back if there's a problem or,
22 you know, a typo, something like that. And then I
23 shred those afterwards so personal information is not
24 retained.

25 Q. So in regard to Day of Prayer

1 proclamations, do you have any sort of files that would
2 include any correspondence from the National Day of
3 Prayer Task Force?

4 A. I do not.

5 Q. In paragraph 13 of your affidavit you
6 make reference to, as a general practice, if there's
7 something controversial in an honorary proclamation,
8 that you may edit the suggested language before
9 approving; do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, when you review something for its
12 controversial nature, how do you determine what is or
13 is not controversial?

14 A. Again, that's a judgment call.

15 Q. And in your experience in exercising that
16 judgment, what do you look for as to whether or not
17 something is controversial?

18 A. I typically look to make sure it is -- if
19 it is a problematic proclamation, where it pits one
20 group against another, I try to make it as least
21 controversial as possible, least offensive as possible,
22 and I try to make it as general as possible. And if I
23 could give you an example real quick ...

24 Q. Uh-huh.

25 A. Say we had a group requesting Breast

1 Cancer Awareness Month and they were heavily involved
2 in the community and they wanted to -- typically
3 they'll submit language that says something along the
4 lines of, you know, paragraphs 1 through 3 are about
5 breast cancer and paragraphs 4 through 6 are
6 specifically about how great their organization is and
7 what they have done to promote breast cancer.

8 MR. GROVE: Awareness.

9 A. Awareness, sorry. Thanks. At that point
10 I would try and strike their name, their specific name
11 from the proclamation, because inevitably, I would get
12 a request a week later with another group wanting their
13 name throughout the Breast Cancer Awareness Month
14 proclamation, and then at that point ...

15 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you know whether or
16 not the Day of Prayer proclamations issued by the
17 Colorado governor are perceived as encouraging people
18 to pray?

19 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
20 speculation. Go ahead.

21 THE DEPONENT: I'm sorry, say the
22 question one more time. Could you read it back?

23 MR. BOLTON: Could you read it back?

24 (The last question was read back.)

25 A. I don't perceive it that way. I'm not

1 sure what others perceive that. I wouldn't imagine so,
2 though.

3 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Has the governor's
4 office received communications from the public in
5 regard to the Day of Prayer since this lawsuit was
6 filed?

7 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
8 speculation.

9 A. The governor's office, as a whole, I
10 couldn't tell you. Myself, personally, no, I've not
11 received any communications other than requesting for a
12 copy of the proclamation.

13 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And for instance, with
14 the 2010 proclamation, did you receive requests for a
15 copy of the proclamation?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I'm talking about other than just the
18 requester. You received requests for the proclamation
19 from other parties; is that correct?

20 A. Yes. And actually, they don't request a
21 copy, they actually request for it to be issued.
22 Because obviously, not everybody in the nation is on
23 the same page knowing who has requested it and who
24 hasn't. So I believe the last one I had was a lady in
25 Castle Rock who asked that the governor issue a

1 Colorado Day of Prayer.

2 Q. And that was before the 2010
3 proclamation?

4 A. I believe it had already been proclaimed
5 at that point, so I sent her a copy. To the best of my
6 knowledge, though, they also requested it in 2009.

7 Q. About how many requests for the 2010
8 proclamation did you receive?

9 A. This specific one?

10 MR. GROVE: Could you clarify whether --
11 are you asking about copies of the 2010 proclamation?

12 MR. BOLTON: Right. Yeah.

13 A. I mean, copies requests, less than 10.

14 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Pardon?

15 A. Less than 10.

16 Q. And did you receive requests for the 2009
17 proclamation, as well?

18 A. To the best of my recollection, yes.

19 Q. Did you receive requests for the 2008
20 proclamation?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. In terms of your review of proclamations
23 and the judgment calls that you make, do you -- in
24 evaluating a request for a Day of Prayer proclamation,
25 do you, in exercising your discretion, have any

1 understanding that the governor's office should not
2 engage in promoting prayer?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Vague. I don't
4 understand that question.

5 A. I don't, either. Could you try it again?

6 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. Do you have any
7 understanding that the governor's office should or
8 should not promote religion?

9 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for a legal
10 conclusion. Calls for speculation.

11 THE DEPONENT: Could you read that one
12 back one more time, please?

13 (The last question was read back.)

14 A. In terms of other than what the
15 Constitution says.

16 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Well, in terms of what
17 your understanding is in the execution of your job
18 responsibilities.

19 A. My understanding in terms of my job
20 responsibilities -- I'm sorry, one more time. I want
21 to make sure I'm very clear.

22 (The last two questions were read back.)

23 A. In terms of -- no, I'm not supposed to do
24 anything that violates the Constitution of the United
25 States of America or the state of Colorado.

1 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. When you review
2 Day of Prayer proclamations, do you review them with
3 any -- from the perspective of whether or not they
4 promote religion?

5 A. Initially, to the best of my
6 recollection, that was a discussion that I had with my
7 boss. And it was determined that this did not violate
8 any Constitution.

9 Q. And who did you have that discussion
10 with?

11 A. I believe at the time it was
12 Nate Strauch.

13 Q. And would that have been prior to issuing
14 the 2007 proclamation?

15 A. That would be, yes. That would be
16 Governor Owens' term.

17 Q. And how did that discussion come about?

18 A. I don't remember, to be honest with you.
19 We're going back four years.

20 Q. Did you initiate the discussion?

21 A. I don't remember.

22 Q. Pardon?

23 A. I don't remember.

24 Q. Do you know, did you have a concern at
25 that time as to whether or not issuing Day of Prayer

1 proclamations would violate the Constitution?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 MR. GROVE: This might be a good time for
4 a break. I think we're an hour in.

5 MR. BOLTON: Sure. Okay.

6 (A short break was taken.)

7 (Exhibit 7 was marked.)

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Can you identify
9 Exhibit 7?

10 A. Looks like the Colorado Day of Prayer
11 issued from 2005.

12 Q. Okay. So I think if we put that there,
13 then, do you have 2004 through 2008?

14 A. I have it through 2009.

15 Q. Pardon?

16 A. I have it through 2009.

17 Q. Right. And I'm going to ask you just
18 about 2004 through 2008 right now. In paragraph 27 of
19 your affidavit you note that the proclamations issued
20 by the governor from 2004 through 2008 acknowledge the
21 federal designation of the Day of Prayer by Congress
22 and the president; do you see that?

23 A. 27, yes.

24 Q. And were you aware, before this lawsuit
25 began, that the proclamations that the governor was

1 being asked to issue all corresponded to the National
2 Day of Prayer designation by the president?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Vague.

4 Corresponded? Could you further define "corresponded"?

5 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Is the Day of Prayer
6 designated by the governor in the proclamations from
7 2004 through even 2010, is the day that's proclaimed to
8 be the Colorado Day of Prayer the same as the National
9 Day of Prayer?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you aware of that at the time that
12 you were issuing these proclamations or finalizing
13 these proclamations?

14 A. Again, going back to the very beginning,
15 and it's a little hazy, but -- should I just say I
16 don't know?

17 MR. GROVE: Could I clarify something?

18 MR. BOLTON: Uh-huh.

19 MR. GROVE: When was the first
20 proclamation that you issued? I mean, we're talking
21 2004 to 2008 here. And you should clarify which ones
22 you were directly involved in before answering that,
23 please.

24 A. I definitely was not for 2004. It's a
25 possibility I did 2005, but I don't remember. I did

1 not do 2006. And 2007 to present I would have done.

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. In your
3 affidavit, at least, you make -- in paragraph 27 you
4 make a statement regarding the 2004 through 2008
5 proclamations, noting that they acknowledge the federal
6 designation of the Day of Prayer by Congress and the
7 president.

8 A. And so back to, to the best of my
9 recollection, in the initial requesting letter, I
10 believe that it states in the letter that the request
11 goes to the president or it's as a result of the
12 president and all 50 governors. And I think that's
13 where that came from.

14 Q. Okay. You didn't have any understanding,
15 however, that the governor was required to issue a Day
16 of Prayer proclamation request; is that correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. In paragraph 27 of your affidavit you
19 also note that the proclamations from 2004 through 2008
20 acknowledge the history and ubiquity of the National
21 Day of Prayer; do you see that?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. What did you mean by that?

24 A. I believe in paragraph 2 here of the
25 proclamation it says "the National Day of Prayer,

1 established in 1954 and defined by President
2 Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May," that would
3 be what that's referring to.

4 Q. And what did you mean by "ubiquity"? Do
5 you know what "ubiquity" means?

6 A. I thought I had a general understanding,
7 but I can't give you a definition right now.

8 Q. What is your general understanding?

9 A. Equality.

10 Q. Pardon?

11 A. Equality.

12 Q. In your statement in paragraph 27 of your
13 affidavit, as I understand it, then, you were
14 attempting to make some generalizations about the 2004
15 through 2008 proclamations; is that correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. How did you decide what generalizations
18 that you wanted to include about these proclamations?

19 A. I don't believe that it was me who
20 decided that. It would have been, again, from the
21 previous years, I would have checked, seen it already
22 there, and then reissued.

23 Q. Would it also be a fair generalization of
24 the proclamations from 2004 through 2008 that they all
25 include some scriptural -- specific scriptural

1 reference?

2 A. Yes. It says that in paragraph 4.

3 Q. And the scriptural reference, do you have
4 any understanding whether or not -- well, what is your
5 understanding of why the scriptural reference was
6 included in or requested by the National Day of Prayer
7 Task Force?

8 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
9 speculation. Go ahead.

10 A. My understanding would be that on this
11 Day of Prayer, they like to acknowledge different
12 biblical versus or themes as they celebrate.

13 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And did you understand
14 that the biblical reference was something that related
15 to the federal designation of the Day of Prayer by
16 Congress and the president?

17 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
18 speculation. Calls for a legal conclusion. Go ahead.

19 A. Say that one more time? Or could you
20 read it back, please?

21 MR. BOLTON: Can you read it back?

22 (The last question was read back.)

23 A. I did not realize, to the best of my
24 recollection, that Congress was using or the federal
25 government was using these specific themes or

1 acknowledgments in theirs.

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you understand --
3 did you think that these themes or scriptural
4 references were something that was unique to the
5 requesting organization?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
7 speculation.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you understand that
10 the National Day of Prayer Task Force was a Christian
11 organization?

12 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
13 speculation.

14 A. I don't remember. I would have to
15 literally see the requesting letter again. Because a
16 lot of what we take comes from that original letter.
17 So if in there it said we are Christian, then, yes, I
18 would have assumed they are Christian. If it did not
19 say that, I don't believe that would have been my
20 assumption.

21 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) In any event, in
22 addition to the common elements of the proclamations
23 from 2004 through 2008 that are described in paragraph
24 27 of your affidavit, it is fair to say that the
25 sequence of proclamations also all include a specific

1 biblical or scriptural reference; is that correct?

2 A. I'm sorry, could you ask that again
3 specifically? It's just very long.

4 Q. My understanding of paragraph 27 was
5 that -- of your affidavit is that you tried to pull
6 together some of the common elements of the
7 proclamations from 2004 through 2008; correct?

8 A. The common elements, the four paragraphs
9 that don't change?

10 Q. Pardon?

11 A. The four paragraphs that don't change?

12 Q. The acknowledgement of the federal
13 designation of the Day of Prayer, common element of all
14 the proclamations; correct?

15 A. Correct. That's in every one. And that
16 would have been carried over from year to year. That
17 would not have changed.

18 Q. And what I'm saying is: It is also true
19 that the sequence of proclamations from 2004 through
20 2008 each include a biblical reference; is that
21 correct?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. Was there any reason why you did not
24 include that common element in your affidavit in
25 describing the proclamations?

1 A. I'm sorry, could you ask the question one
2 more time? Is there a reason I didn't -- go ahead.

3 Q. Yeah. Is there a reason why you included
4 the reference to the federal designation of the Day of
5 Prayer by Congress and a reference to the history and
6 ubiquity of the National Day of Prayer in describing
7 the 2004-2008 proclamations, but did not include the
8 common element in each of these proclamations that
9 included a biblical reference?

10 A. No. I guess I didn't feel the need to.

11 Q. Do you think that the biblical reference
12 in those proclamations helps to identify the sponsoring
13 organization or the requesting organization?

14 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
15 speculation.

16 THE DEPONENT: All right.

17 A. No, I don't. I don't know the bible well
18 enough to tell you where these verses come from. So
19 again, going back to the requester's letter, unless it
20 specifically said in there, we're an organization that
21 is Christian or Jewish or whatever, I wouldn't know how
22 to identify them, what religion. I would assume
23 there's some sort of Judeo-Christian.

24 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do the proclamations
25 that you've seen include any identification of who the

1 requesting organization is in the proclamation, itself?

2 A. No. And that would go back to, again,
3 our discussion about how we try and not identify
4 organizations because then it makes the proclamation
5 very specific to that organization. So we generally
6 try not to do that as much as possible.

7 Q. And so by not including that, it makes it
8 more general; is that correct?

9 A. Correct. So if one day we had group A
10 asking for this proclamation, and then a week later we
11 had group A (sic) requesting it, and each wanted their
12 own name in there, that would be extremely problematic,
13 because I would have to tell group B, sorry this has
14 already been issued, your name is not allowed to be in
15 it.

16 Q. So the proclamation of a Day of Prayer, a
17 Colorado Day of Prayer, then, is proclaimed not
18 specific to any particular requesting organization,
19 then?

20 A. Correct. There's no specific
21 organization acknowledged in the proclamation.

22 Q. The particular day is designated or
23 proclaimed as the Colorado Day of Prayer rather than
24 any specific organization's Day of Prayer?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Do you know whether or not the governor,
2 in fact, supports the designation of a Day of Prayer?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
4 speculation.

5 A. I do not know his personal beliefs on the
6 Day of Prayer.

7 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Has anyone told you to
8 discontinue issuing Day of Prayer proclamations?

9 MR. GROVE: Objection. Vague. Can you
10 define "anyone"? Do you mean inside or outside?

11 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Within the governor's
12 office.

13 A. Within the governor's office, no.

14 Q. Now, with regard to your position, are
15 you an appointee of the governor, then? For instance,
16 you stayed on after Governor Owens left office and
17 Governor Ritter became governor. Is your position one
18 where -- do you have any civil service protection or --

19 A. No. In the governor's office,
20 specifically, we're what's called at-will position, so
21 we serve for the pleasure of the governor.

22 Q. Do you know whether the governor
23 participated in any Day of Prayer activities this year,
24 in 2010?

25 A. To my knowledge, he has not participated

1 in any.

2 Q. Do you know whether he participated in
3 any prayer breakfasts in 2010?

4 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy. Go
5 ahead and answer.

6 A. I don't know that he's participated in
7 any prayer breakfast, lunch, dinners.

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Would that be true for
9 2009, as well?

10 MR. GROVE: Same objection.

11 A. And you're going to have to be more
12 specific here. Because there are religious groups that
13 request the governor's presence and I know he has
14 attended those, whether they be ceremonies, breakfasts,
15 lunches throughout all four years of his
16 administration.

17 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Are you familiar with a
18 prayer luncheon that the governor has participated in?

19 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy.

20 A. And again, you would have to be more
21 specific. There are many prayer religious lunches that
22 he, to the best of my knowledge, has attended.

23 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you have any -- as
24 the person who was involved in helping to prepare the
25 proclamations, do you have any belief that our

1 government was founded on Christian principles?

2 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for a legal
3 conclusion. Calls for speculation. Go ahead and
4 answer.

5 A. I'm sorry, could you rephrase the
6 question again? My personal opinion?

7 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Right. On whether or
8 not our government is founded on Christian principles.

9 MR. GROVE: And objection. Relevancy.
10 Go ahead.

11 A. Based on what I've learned in my history
12 classes and throughout the course of my life, I believe
13 that the founding fathers were religious in nature, or
14 at least adhered to, for the most part, Christianity,
15 except with the exception of Thomas Jefferson, who I
16 think that's still being debated.

17 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you understand that
18 the founding fathers incorporated Christian principles
19 into the structure of our government?

20 A. That's what I've been -- sorry.

21 Q. Do you have any understanding that in
22 terms of the governor's office, whether or not there
23 can be any preference or Christianity, as opposed to
24 any other religion or nonreligion?

25 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for a legal

1 conclusion.

2 A. I'm sorry, could you repeat the question?

3 (The last question was read back.)

4 A. My understanding is that as a state
5 government, there is to be no preferential treatment of
6 any one religion or nonreligion.

7 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Was that why -- was that
8 issue discussed with your boss when -- you made
9 reference to a discussion about the proclamations that
10 you had early on. Was your concern that the
11 proclamations all included specific Christian
12 references?

13 A. I'm not a lawyer and so those
14 conversations that took place, and again, to the best
15 of my recollection, we're going back four years, were
16 very general. The general theme of the discussion I
17 believe was, does this look okay, yes, this looks okay,
18 it doesn't seem to violate anything.

19 Q. Was there any discussion about the fact
20 that the proclamation included specifically a Christian
21 reference?

22 MR. GROVE: Objection. Mischaracterizes
23 Old Testament. Old Testament references aren't
24 necessarily Christian.

25 MR. BOLTON: Okay.

1 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Was there any discussion
2 about the fact that -- well, as to where the specific
3 scriptural references were coming from?

4 A. I don't remember.

5 Q. In concluding that it looked okay, do you
6 recall anything specific about the reasoning process?
7 What was it that was being specifically looked at, if
8 you recall?

9 A. To the best of my recollection, in
10 looking back at these, I think it was okay to say that
11 the National Day of Prayer acknowledged a certain theme
12 or verse.

13 Q. Did you understand that the theme was
14 being provided specifically by the requesting
15 organization or that that theme somehow came from
16 Washington?

17 A. I did not make that connection or
18 understand that connection, if there indeed was one. I
19 don't know. I'd be speculating.

20 Q. Did you understand that the scriptural
21 reference was something that was being selected by the
22 requesting organization?

23 A. I assumed it was coming from them.

24 Q. With regard to the proclamations
25 declaring a Colorado Day of Prayer, did you have -- I

1 mean, what is your understanding of what prayer is? I
2 mean, the proclamations that are going out under --
3 with the governor's signature, the state seal on them,
4 all are declaring a Day of Prayer, what is your
5 understanding of what that means, what prayer is?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy. Go
7 ahead.

8 A. I believe prayer is to each individual
9 what they choose it to be. That would be my
10 understanding of prayer.

11 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you have any
12 understanding that it had a religious connotation?

13 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy.

14 A. Again, to each individual, it could or
15 may not. I mean, define "religious."

16 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) So --

17 A. So if a Greek organization who believe in
18 the ancient Greek gods, to them, praying is obviously
19 different to a nonbeliever that may be praying to a
20 monotheistic god or maybe no god at all, maybe the
21 coffee cup on the table.

22 Q. So you think these proclamations could
23 reasonably be construed to apply as equally to
24 nonbelievers, as well as believers?

25 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy. Go

1 ahead.

2 A. If they so choose.

3 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Pardon?

4 A. If they so choose.

5 Q. And was that part of the discussion that
6 you had with your boss early on when you were
7 discussing the proclamations?

8 A. I don't remember, I'm afraid.

9 Q. Was there any discussion with your boss
10 about the history and ubiquity of the National Day of
11 Prayer?

12 A. Again, I don't remember, I'm afraid.

13 Q. Have you ever met with any of the
14 National Day of Prayer organizers in Colorado?

15 A. No, not to my knowledge.

16 Q. Are you aware of anybody in the
17 governor's office who has met with the Colorado Day of
18 Prayer organizers?

19 THE DEPONENT: Am I allowed to make
20 assumptions?

21 MR. GROVE: If you're going to speculate,
22 tell him you're speculating.

23 A. I'm speculating, but I imagine during
24 2007 when the governor went out there, that somebody
25 from the governor's office must have been in contact

1 with somebody from the organizations or representing
2 the organization.

3 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you know why the
4 governor participated in the 2007 Day of Prayer
5 activities at the capitol?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Speculation.
7 Relevancy.

8 A. I do not.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) My understanding is that
10 the organized Day of Prayer activities around the
11 capitol in the last few years relating to the Day of
12 Prayer are -- there's a lot of stuff going on on that
13 day, organized activities; is that correct?

14 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
15 speculation.

16 A. The first time I paid attention to and
17 knew that it was the Day of Prayer at the capitol, I
18 did notice a lot of people on the west steps. Maybe if
19 I could clarify that just to be more specific. Every
20 day there could be an event on the west steps for any
21 group. It's open to the public.

22 So for years past, I wouldn't have known
23 it was the Day of Prayer unless I specifically looked
24 at the calendar that day and sought out that it was the
25 National Day of Prayer.

1 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you know that one of
2 the goals of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is
3 to encourage prayer?

4 MR. GROVE: Objection. Speculation.

5 A. The only way I would have known that is
6 if in the requesting letter, it had specifically said
7 that.

8 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you recall being
9 aware of that?

10 A. I can't remember, I'm afraid, from their
11 letter.

12 Q. Do you recall anything about the
13 requesting letters?

14 A. I mean, as a result of this lawsuit, I
15 know that they came from, I believe you said
16 Shirley Dobson?

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. I know that they requested the governor
19 issue a Day of Prayer in a proclamation. I know they
20 provided sample language. That's what I can recall
21 right now.

22 (Exhibit 8 was marked.)

23 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you recognize
24 Exhibit 8?

25 A. It looks familiar. However, it looks as

1 though the letterhead --

2 Q. Pardon?

3 A. It looks as though the letterhead is no
4 longer there. So it may have been doctored a little
5 bit from what I remember it.

6 Q. In terms of the content of what's shown
7 as Exhibit 8 in terms of the substantive paragraphs,
8 does it look familiar to you?

9 A. May I compare it to ...

10 Q. Pardon?

11 A. I'm just going to compare it to this real
12 quick.

13 MR. GROVE: For the record. You're
14 comparing to Exhibit 3?

15 THE DEPONENT: Exhibit 3. Yes.

16 A. That looks about right, yes.

17 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And so Exhibit 8
18 includes the -- it looks like -- and I'll represent,
19 it's a form letter that at least Mrs. Dobson indicated
20 was sent to all the governors. And in the second full
21 paragraph there's a reference to the 2008 theme and
22 scriptural reference; do you see that?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. And is that, in fact, included in the
25 2008 proclamation?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And do you assume that you incorporated
3 that into the 2008 proclamation from Mrs. Dobson's
4 letter?

5 A. I do. In paragraph 4 of the proclamation
6 it says that the National Day of Prayer acknowledges
7 Psalm 28:7. And Mrs. Dobson's letter acknowledges that
8 they have selected that biblical verse in their letter.

9 Q. And how would this letter -- these
10 letters get directed to you, then?

11 A. They would come via E-mail, mail, or fax.
12 This particular group, I believe, mailed them to us.
13 But again, I'm not 100-percent sure.

14 Q. Pardon?

15 A. I believe they mailed them to us, but I'm
16 not a hundred-percent sure.

17 Q. Okay. And within the governor's office,
18 then, that would have been directed to you because you
19 apparently -- were you involved, in general, with the
20 handling of proclamations, in general?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Did you know that the National Day
23 of Prayer Task Force promotes and encourages the role
24 of prayer by mobilizing around the National Day of
25 Prayer?

1 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
2 speculation.

3 THE DEPONENT: Sorry, could you read that
4 one more time?

5 (The last question was read back.)

6 A. I don't know unless it specifically says
7 in the body of this letter here, which I'm looking and
8 not seeing.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you know that the
10 National Day of Prayer is a rallying point for the
11 National Day of Prayer Task Force in focussing on
12 prayer for the country?

13 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
14 speculation. Relevancy.

15 A. I can assume, but I did not know.

16 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. Would you have
17 read each of these letters when they were received on
18 an annual basis from Mrs. Dobson?

19 A. I believe for most years, yes. Obviously
20 not the years I was not employed by the office.

21 Q. If you had been -- were you aware that
22 the National Day of Prayer Task Force promotes a
23 Judeo-Christian perspective?

24 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
25 speculation.

1 A. I did not know that.

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Would it have made a
3 difference to you if you had known that?

4 A. I don't believe so. We would have still
5 acknowledged this group's wish to pray.

6 Q. And the reason for not specifically
7 referencing the group in the proclamation, itself, is
8 because it makes it more specific, though?

9 A. Less specific to that group.

10 Q. You wanted a proclamation to be --

11 A. To be able to be used by as many people
12 as possible without reference to a single group or a
13 single individual. Because as I said before, we get
14 requests for this proclamation from more than just
15 Mrs. Dobson and the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

16 Q. But the only scriptural reference that
17 you included in any of the proclamations was that
18 requested by Mrs. Dobson; is that correct?

19 A. To the -- I don't know. I would have to
20 see another request letter, requester's letter.

21 Q. Well, certainly -- did you issue more
22 than one Day of Prayer proclamation annually?

23 A. No, not to my knowledge.

24 Q. Okay. So at least from 2004 through
25 2008, the annual proclamation did not include anything

1 other than the scriptural reference requested by
2 Mrs. Dobson; is that correct?

3 A. Her scriptural reference is also in our
4 proclamations, if that's what you're asking, yes.

5 Q. But you said you receive requests for Day
6 of Prayer proclamations from persons other than
7 Mrs. Dobson; correct?

8 A. Correct. So if we can go back to the
9 lady in Castle Rock, as I used as an example, and I
10 would have to see her request, and it's possible that
11 she also used the same verse that was used in the
12 proclamations.

13 But I would, again, have to see her
14 request to see whether that was true or not. And her
15 request may have just been, I've heard you've
16 proclaimed a Day of Prayer, I would like a copy.

17 Q. Did you understand that, in the case of
18 proclamations by governors such as the governor of
19 Colorado, that Mrs. Dobson anticipated that the
20 intended audience for the proclamations would be the
21 people of the specific state in which the governor was
22 issuing the proclamation?

23 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
24 speculation. Relevancy.

25 A. I did not know what her audience was

1 intended, which audience was intended by it.

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you know that
3 Mrs. Dobson understands the National Day of Prayer to
4 be about calling Americans to come before an almighty
5 god?

6 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
7 speculation.

8 A. I did not know what Mrs. Dobson's beliefs
9 were.

10 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) If you had known that,
11 would it have made any difference to you in the
12 handling of the proclamations that were eventually
13 issued?

14 THE DEPONENT: Are hypotheticals okay?

15 MR. GROVE: Uh-huh.

16 A. I mean, if hypothetically she had said --

17 MR. GROVE: You'd be speculating.

18 A. I'd be speculating. If hypothetically
19 she'd said, please issue a proclamation for my group,
20 acknowledging our right to gather to pray to an
21 almighty god, I would probably still issue that
22 proclamation, yes.

23 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you know that
24 Mrs. Dobson understood that prayer proclamations by
25 state governors were a form of lending support for the

1 National Day of Prayer celebration?

2 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
3 speculation. Go ahead.

4 A. I would imagine she probably used them to
5 lend support to her Day of Prayer.

6 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you know that
7 Mrs. Dobson considered support by government officials,
8 including governors, to be critical to the National Day
9 of Prayer Task Force's efforts to promote prayer?

10 MR. GROVE: Same objection.

11 A. Unless it specifically says in this
12 letter that it was critical to their organization's
13 mission, I wouldn't understand the level of
14 criticalness that it was.

15 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. Certainly you
16 understood that she wanted a proclamation issued by a
17 high government official, though; correct?

18 A. Correct. I assume that's why she wrote
19 the letter.

20 Q. And you knew that the National Day of
21 Prayer Task Force then apparently was choosing an
22 annual theme for each year's National Day of Prayer;
23 correct?

24 A. Yes. If each letter looked like this and
25 had the different paragraph in section 2 -- or

1 paragraph 2, then yes.

2 Q. And you understood that Mrs. Dobson
3 wanted the annual theme and supporting scripture to be
4 incorporated into official proclamations by governors?

5 A. I believe it says that in here, so yes.

6 Q. She specifically wanted the theme and
7 scriptural reference to be included in the official
8 proclamation; correct?

9 A. Do you mind if I just read the same
10 paragraph?

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. (Reading.) It looks like it, yes. That
13 would be what I would assume to be considered sample
14 language for a proclamation.

15 Q. And in terms of 2009 and 2010, the
16 proclamations, you were not told by the director of
17 communications to discontinue including the scriptural
18 reference and annual theme requested by Mrs. Dobson; is
19 that correct?

20 A. I was not told by the communications
21 director.

22 Q. And you weren't told that by the
23 governor; correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Now, after the lawsuit was filed,

1 Evan Dreyer -- and I don't recall, was he the director
2 of communications?

3 A. He is, yes.

4 Q. -- was quoted in the media as saying --
5 first of all, he was quoted as a spokesman for Governor
6 Ritter, is that --

7 A. In his capacity as director of
8 communications, he does go on record for the governor.

9 Q. And Mr. Dreyer was quoted as saying that
10 the Day of Prayer proclamation is nothing more than
11 what it says, a recognition of a personal choice to
12 pray. Do you recall him saying that?

13 A. I don't. But if I could see the article
14 it was in. Do you have a year? a date?

15 Q. This would have been in December of '08,
16 shortly after the lawsuit was filed. And the reference
17 that I'm making is, I think there's a notation at the
18 very bottom of the article.

19 MR. GROVE: Could I just state for the
20 record, this is not admitted as an exhibit, but it's an
21 article that purports to be from the Los Angeles Times
22 dated December 15th, 2008. Title of the article is
23 "Atheists answer Day of Prayer with lawsuit." Go
24 ahead.

25 A. I'm sorry, could you maybe repeat the

1 question?

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) The quoted comment by
3 Mr. Dreyer in that article; do you see it?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Was that discussed within the office as
6 to what the spokesman for the governor would publicly
7 respond with regard to the lawsuit?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Do you agree with the statement that
10 Mr. Dreyer is quoted as having made, that the Day of
11 Prayer proclamations are recognition of a personal
12 choice to pray?

13 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy. Go
14 ahead.

15 A. I'm sorry, could I see the quote one more
16 time? A recognition of personal choice to pray, yes.

17 (Exhibit 9 was marked.)

18 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) And just for the record,
19 what we marked as Exhibit 9 is the article that we've
20 been discussing the last few questions; is that
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. When you say that you actually agree with
24 that, that the prayer proclamations are a recognition
25 of the personal choice to pray, what do you mean by

1 that?

2 A. That individuals or organizations are
3 allowed to pray.

4 Q. Did you understand, though, that the Day
5 of Prayer, at least as to those making a personal
6 choice to pray, that that is part of what the Day of
7 Prayer involves?

8 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy.

9 A. I'm sorry, could you rephrase your
10 question, maybe?

11 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) In other words, you're
12 not simply acknowledging some past historical fact,
13 there is -- the proclamation of a Day of Prayer is a
14 day in which, at least for those who choose to, are
15 encouraged to pray; correct?

16 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevancy.

17 A. And I think it's both. Because in the
18 actual proclamation it defines that this is a
19 historical occurrence, and then it also acknowledges
20 that people and groups have -- are able to pray.

21 MR. GROVE: If I could add one objection,
22 it would be that the document speaks for itself. Go
23 ahead.

24 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Well, at the Day of
25 Prayer activities that you've seen around the capitol,

1 has there been -- have they been characterized by
2 public praying?

3 MR. GROVE: Objection. Foundation. Go
4 ahead.

5 A. And again, the only one that I briefly
6 witnessed, and by witnessed I mean I was passing a
7 window as I saw several hundred people gathered on the
8 west steps, they were very loud, music was playing, and
9 I don't recall if there was ever a prayer sequence. I
10 mean, I could assume there was, but I don't recall.

11 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Did you do any research
12 as to the history and ubiquity of the National Day of
13 Prayer at the time that you were -- when you were
14 involved in preparing prayer proclamations or
15 finalizing them?

16 A. Going back four or five years, I don't
17 recall whether I specifically looked up the history and
18 ubiquity of the National Day of Prayer. That would
19 have been a discussion I would have had with my boss at
20 the time. And again, that goes back to that general
21 discussion.

22 MR. GROVE: We're at 10:30, would this be
23 an okay time for a break?

24 MR. BOLTON: Sure.

25 (A short break was taken.)

1 (Exhibit 10 was marked.)

2 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Are you familiar with
3 the Colorado prayer luncheon?

4 MR. GROVE: Objection. Relevance. Go
5 ahead.

6 A. I've heard of it.

7 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) What -- do you know what
8 it is?

9 A. I know it's a prayer luncheon. I don't
10 know what group it is, whether it's associated with
11 this, who it's for.

12 Q. Do you know whether it's something that
13 the governor has participated in in the past?

14 A. I believe so. I think that's why I've
15 heard of it.

16 Q. I'd ask if you'd look at Exhibit 10.

17 A. (Reading.)

18 Q. Does that refresh your recollection or
19 trigger any memories about what the Colorado prayer
20 luncheon is?

21 A. It gives me a little better
22 understanding, yes.

23 Q. Is that something that the governor has
24 participated in on a regular basis?

25 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for

1 speculation.

2 A. I don't know if he does that annually or
3 regularly or if he did it as the DA before he was
4 governor.

5 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Certainly in 2008
6 apparently he did; is that correct?

7 A. It looks like it based on this.

8 Q. And certainly -- it's not very clear, but
9 does that appear to be a picture of the governor?

10 A. That does look like him, yes.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the Interfaith
12 Alliance of Colorado? Have you ever heard of that
13 organization?

14 A. Yes, I have -- I believe we've done
15 events with the Interfaith Alliance.

16 Q. Pardon?

17 A. I believe we've done events, we, the
18 governor's office, have done with the Interfaith
19 Alliance.

20 Q. Do you recall getting any complaints from
21 that organization or its members regarding the Day of
22 Prayer, Colorado Day of Prayer?

23 A. Something's tickling my memory, but you'd
24 have to help me out, I'm afraid.

25 Q. Okay. Do you recall that you received

1 letters and electronic communications from the
2 Interfaith Alliance relating to the Day of Prayer back
3 in 2008?

4 A. It's triggering a memory, yes.

5 Q. And that you called this organization
6 back and responded to their concerns? You don't
7 recall?

8 A. I don't recall. Again, it sounds like it
9 could have happened.

10 Q. The decision -- and again, I don't want
11 to know any communications from lawyers or whatnot.
12 But the decision to not include scriptural references
13 in the prayer proclamation for 2009 and 2010 -- well,
14 2009, do you know whether that decision was made before
15 or after the lawsuit was filed?

16 A. Can I consult my attorney?

17 Q. Pardon?

18 A. Can I consult my attorney?

19 Q. Sure.

20 (Pause in proceedings.)

21 THE DEPONENT: Could I have the question
22 again, please?

23 (The last question was read back.)

24 A. I can't remember if it was before or
25 after the lawsuit was filed. But I -- now that you've

1 mentioned these phone calls or E-mails, maybe -- I do
2 recall a couple that had issue with -- and again, to
3 the best of my recollection, issue with the fourth
4 paragraph of the proclamation.

5 And I believe at that point it was taken
6 into consideration, and we decided to omit that
7 paragraph for the years following. But I couldn't tell
8 you if it was before or after the lawsuit.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Okay. Do you know
10 whether the governor supports the idea of a National
11 Day of Prayer?

12 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
13 speculation.

14 A. I do not.

15 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) You indicated that you
16 were familiar with the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado;
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You said that you had done events with
20 them in the past?

21 A. I remember one event on the west steps
22 where I believe it was a rabbi, an Imam, and I believe
23 it was a Roman Catholic priest, and we -- I don't
24 remember what the event was for, though. I mean, it
25 was in celebration of all religions.

1 Q. Have you done any events with the
2 National Day of Prayer Task Force?

3 A. Not to my knowledge. Again, the 2007,
4 I'm not sure who that was with.

5 Q. This discussion that you had with your
6 boss back either in -- well, I think prior to the 2007
7 proclamation where you said you had some discussion
8 with your boss about the prayer proclamations ...

9 A. The Owens administration?

10 Q. Well, I'm not sure whether that
11 discussion was during the Owens administration or
12 during the Ritter administration.

13 A. So the first time this came up?

14 Q. Yeah. You talked about a discussion that
15 you had, not with the governor, but with -- and I think
16 it was the director of communications that you had the
17 discussion with; do you recall the discussion you've
18 been ...

19 A. I don't, other than the general outline
20 of what I've given you.

21 Q. But that was a discussion with the
22 director of communications?

23 A. I don't believe it was ever with the
24 director of communications. But I couldn't -- I'd be
25 speculating.

1 Q. What's your best recollection?

2 A. My best recollection is that it would
3 have been with the deputy press secretary. In fact, I
4 don't believe we had a director of communications when
5 I came to the Owens administration full time.

6 Q. Was there any discussion with the deputy
7 press secretary that you recall relating to the
8 identity of the requester for the proclamation, the
9 National Day of Prayer Task Force?

10 A. Not that I recall. I don't know.

11 Q. Any discussion of the request being from
12 Mrs. Dobson?

13 A. I don't remember.

14 Q. Do you recall whether the discussion
15 was -- were you looking for some direction of some
16 sort?

17 A. Not that I remember. It was -- I'd be
18 speculating too much, I'm afraid.

19 Q. Am I correct that at least the
20 proclamations that issued -- that you were involved
21 with both during the Owens administration and the
22 Ritter administration, they were all properly issued as
23 proclamations from the governor; is that correct?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. And the reason I ask that is because in

1 your affidavit you make some reference that, at least
2 as I read it, seems to distance -- seems to be an
3 attempt to distance the governor from the
4 proclamations.

5 So my question is simply, none of these
6 proclamations were issued without proper authorization
7 and consent; is that correct?

8 A. I'm sorry, could you try that one again?

9 Q. All the proclamations that you were
10 involved in were --

11 A. And we're specifically talking about
12 these five in front of me?

13 Q. Right. -- were issued with proper
14 authorization and consent?

15 A. Of myself with the authority I've been
16 given to use the auto pen correct.

17 Q. And that authority -- and they are
18 issued, then, as coming from the office of the
19 governor; correct?

20 A. That is correct.

21 MR. BOLTON: That's all I have.

22 MR. GROVE: Mr. Bannister, I just have a
23 couple of points of clarification that I wanted to run
24 by you.

25

1 EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. GROVE:

3 Q. For the proclamations from 2004 through
4 2008, there was discussion earlier about the extent to
5 which they included biblical references. Are there any
6 nonbiblical references in those proclamations, any
7 references to documents that are not the bible?

8 A. Declaration of Independence.

9 Q. Anything else?

10 A. I mean, "established in 1954 and defined
11 by President Ronald Reagan," I would assume it's
12 somewhere in national law.

13 Q. How many proclamation requests do you get
14 in a year?

15 A. Several hundred.

16 Q. And are they all routed through you?

17 A. They type -- yes, every single one comes
18 across my desk at some point.

19 Q. And do you remember the details of every
20 proclamation request that you receive?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What are the requirements for having you
23 issue a proclamation? What must a requesting party do?

24 A. The general guidelines are, you need
25 submit background information about your group or

1 organization, you need to submit draft language, you
2 need to submit it -- well, we ask for 30 days in
3 advance notice of when you need it, although many
4 groups don't follow this, and we're still able to
5 follow through and get them their proclamation, but
6 those are the three major ones.

7 Q. What knowledge do you have of the prayer
8 luncheons that Mr. Bolton was discussing earlier?

9 A. Very limited, other than I know the
10 governor has, I mean, based on Exhibit 10, attended
11 them.

12 Q. Looking at Exhibit 10, is there any
13 indication in that exhibit that the Colorado Prayer
14 luncheon is affiliated or run by the National Day of
15 Prayer Task Force?

16 A. Not that I saw. I don't believe so. I
17 mean, as far as I'm aware, this is like any other
18 prayer or religious request that has asked the governor
19 to attend and welcome on behalf of the State.

20 Q. And have you attended any of these with
21 the governor?

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. Okay. Going back to the proclamation,
24 itself, the annual proclamation that you received from
25 the National Day of Prayer Task Force, is that the --

1 you mentioned that you receive multiple proclamation
2 requests every year, which do you receive first?

3 A. In terms of for this specific one?

4 Q. Every year -- let me clarify. Every
5 year, you testified, that you receive multiple
6 proclamation requests, presumably from more than one
7 individually or group; correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Chronologically, which of those comes
10 first annually?

11 A. I believe this one. I believe it's the
12 National Task Force that we're talking about, National
13 Day of Prayer Task Force.

14 Q. Have you ever received a request for a
15 proclamation for the National Day of Prayer that came
16 earlier in the year than the letter that you received
17 from Shirley Dobson?

18 A. Not to my knowledge.

19 Q. If you had, what would you do?

20 A. I would look at the letter and then
21 issue -- reissue this year's Day of Prayer.

22 Q. And if you received that proclamation
23 request and it was prior to the letter that you
24 received from Shirley Dobson, would you include
25 language suggested by that requester or would you

1 include Ms. Dobson's suggested language?

2 A. If I issued it prior to the request
3 coming from Ms. Dobson, I would issue it with the -- I
4 would issue it with the same language as the year
5 before, unless they specifically did not include
6 paragraphs.

7 Q. And if Mrs. Dobson's letter came in
8 subsequent to your issuance of the honorary
9 proclamation in response to that request, what would
10 you do?

11 A. I'm sorry, say that again.

12 Q. If Ms. Dobson submitted a letter, as she
13 does every year, and you had already issued an honorary
14 proclamation acknowledging the Day of Prayer for this
15 that coming year, would you issue an honorary
16 proclamation in response to Ms. Dobson's request?

17 A. I would give her a copy of the
18 proclamation that has been issued.

19 Q. Okay. Do you have knowledge of or do you
20 have any recollection of other proclamations that the
21 governor has issued in the last few years? Can you
22 give me a few examples of those?

23 A. I mean, what kind of examples -- like,
24 National Chili Appreciation Day or something?

25 MR. BOLTON: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

1 A. I mean, there have been so many that run
2 the gamut of society. I mean, we have a chili
3 appreciation day one; we have Independence Day
4 proclamations; we have Colorado day, celebrating
5 statehood.

6 Q. (By Mr. Grove) Let's talk about Chili
7 Appreciation Day. Do you know if the governor endorses
8 chili over hot dogs or hamburgers?

9 A. No. I don't believe he has a preference.
10 But again, I'd be speculating.

11 Q. We discussed earlier, and I think it's in
12 your affidavit, Armenian Genocide Awareness Day.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And are there any other competing groups
15 or related groups that issue proclamation requests?

16 A. We do a Turkish independence day. Turkey
17 and Armenia are currently at odds, they have been for a
18 while.

19 Q. So the governor issues proclamations
20 acknowledging requests from both the Turks and the
21 Armenians?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Do you know if he endorses one of those
24 groups over the other?

25 A. I don't believe so.

1 MR. GROVE: That's all I have.

2 MR. BOLTON: Just a couple follow-up,
3 then.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. BOLTON:

6 Q. With regard to the procedure for getting
7 a proclamation, you said one of the things that you
8 have to do, that you have to provide background
9 information about the organization, the requesting
10 organization. Did you ever see any background
11 information about the National Day of Prayer Task
12 Force?

13 A. Again, I would have to go back to the
14 letter in Exhibit 8. Possibly an attachment with them
15 that isn't included here. But if not, this would have
16 been one of those where we'd issued it the year before.
17 And that would have been part of that general
18 discussion with my boss, that would have been years
19 ago.

20 Q. You didn't do any independent
21 investigation about the requesting organization; is
22 that correct?

23 A. I don't know. I couldn't tell you if I
24 did or didn't initially.

25 Q. And do I understand, then, that with

1 regard to a proclamation for a Day of Prayer, that if
2 the first requester includes biblical references,
3 that's what you go with. And it's first -- for the Day
4 of Prayer, it's first come, first serve, whatever -- if
5 there's a scriptural reference, a biblical reference,
6 that's what we go with even if other people request a
7 Day of Prayer proclamation?

8 A. I think this hits back to mass point. So
9 if I can give you a scenario. An organization requests
10 January 1st that we issue a Colorado Day of Prayer.
11 And in that request the outline is the same as this,
12 the language is the same except for that one passage
13 which is different, we would update it, change the
14 passage, then issue it.

15 Let's say Ms. Dobson's letter came in, I
16 don't know, March, March 1st, and we had already issued
17 the proclamation for that current year, we would just
18 send her a copy of the proclamation regardless of what
19 her suggested theme was or biblical verse was. So if
20 they differed, we would go with the first one.

21 Q. Pardon?

22 A. If they differed, we would go with the
23 first one. And again, we don't always issue them
24 within 30 days. So if her letter came and we hadn't
25 issued it, we'd try and reconcile the two, and then at

1 that point, we'd probably fill them both out.

2 Q. So if Ms. Dobson has the foresight to
3 request a proclamation quite a ways in advance, she's
4 likely to get whatever references she wants in the
5 proclamation; is that correct?

6 A. Within reason.

7 Q. Pardon?

8 A. Within reason. But for example, we've
9 had requests that have come for the governor to issue,
10 what's today's date, May 21st, 2010, we've had requests
11 that come in sometimes, for example, that say can the
12 governor request October 2011 as Breast Cancer
13 Awareness Day.

14 Q. Now, with regard particularly to the Day
15 of Prayer proclamation, I get the impression from your
16 answers to Mr. Grove's questions, is that these
17 proclamations really don't mean very much, they're not
18 really intended to indicate any support by the governor
19 for whatever the requester is seeking a proclamation
20 for; is that -- am I correctly understanding?

21 A. I think you would have to define "mean
22 very much." Because obviously this proclamation means
23 a great deal to this group. But in the greater scheme
24 of things to Joe Blow in Durango, he's probably not too
25 bothered, would be my assumption.

1 Q. Well, you don't tell the requesters that
2 these proclamations are not intended to express any
3 support for the particular -- whatever the subject of
4 the proclamation is?

5 A. I rarely have communications with the
6 requesters. If it comes in written format like this,
7 we take it, we process it, and then we mail it back.

8 Q. And whether or not Mrs. Dobson utilizes
9 the various proclamations to show support for the Day
10 of Prayer, you don't know; is that correct?

11 A. We wouldn't know, no.

12 Q. But whether she does or does not, it's
13 nothing anything -- you know, whether she advances the
14 different proclamations in support for the Day of
15 Prayer in indicating support, that's certainly not
16 anything she's prohibited from doing when you give her
17 the proclamations; correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 MR. BOLTON: Okay. That's it.

20 MR. GROVE: Just one more question on
21 recross.

22 EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. GROVE:

24 Q. Let's go back to this hypothetical
25 January 1st request that you receive from someone

1 that's prior to Mrs. Dobson's request. What would you
2 do if that request did not include a biblical reference
3 or a biblical verse? What would the proclamation look
4 like that you issued pursuant to that request?

5 A. If it looked exactly the same as this
6 without the biblical reference?

7 Q. More similar to the 2009 and 2010
8 proclamations, I believe.

9 A. Yeah, that's how it would look.

10 Q. So it would look like the 2009, 2010
11 proclamations. So there's no requirement, then, that
12 the proclamation -- or the requesting organization
13 would include a biblical reference or any religious
14 reference?

15 A. Correct.

16 MR. GROVE: That's all I have.

17 MR. BOLTON: Let me follow up, then.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. BOLTON:

20 Q. With regard to the substance of the Day
21 of Prayer proclamations, other than the scriptural
22 reference, you said that regardless of who's requesting
23 it, that that language would be standard in Day of
24 Prayer proclamation?

25 A. That would be taken into consideration.

1 If it was vastly different to this, we would take it,
2 look at it, and we would probably wait until closer to
3 the date to see if we got anything else.

4 We wouldn't just issue that with the
5 knowledge that this has been done for many years in the
6 past, and there would probably be a forthcoming
7 request. It would be vastly different.

8 Q. Okay. And in fact, the language in the
9 proclamations that have been issued, in addition to the
10 scriptural reference, those paragraphs actually reflect
11 language that was suggested by the National Day of
12 Prayer in their initial proclamation request; correct?

13 MR. GROVE: Objection. Calls for
14 speculation.

15 A. I imagine that whenever this started, it
16 was a process very similar to the one I just described,
17 and it was the first group who got their language in.
18 And then in subsequent years, there hasn't been any
19 group that has issued a request with vastly different
20 language. They've all been very similar, would be my
21 assumption.

22 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) Do you recall any of the
23 other requests?

24 A. That were vastly different than the
25 language used by --

1 Q. Well, whether different or similar.

2 A. I don't. Everything I've ever seen has
3 been extremely similar, if not exactly the same
4 language.

5 Q. Pardon?

6 A. Everything that I recall seeing has been
7 very similar, if not the exact same language.

8 Q. You're telling me that groups other than
9 the National Day of Prayer Task Force have submitted
10 proposed proclamations that included language, for
11 instance, the second "whereas" clause in any one of the
12 proclamations? Take a look at the proclamations.

13 A. To the best of my recollection, yes. And
14 if I may, I would make the assumption that they have
15 seen independently, on their own, that that's what the
16 National Day of Prayer is supposed to look like that
17 year, and then they, on their own initiative, have
18 issued a request.

19 And I wouldn't know if this third party
20 was taking it from the National Day of Prayer. I mean,
21 you could make that leap, but I just wouldn't know. I
22 wouldn't be able to verify that.

23 Q. Regardless of the requester, then,
24 though, am I correct that, for instance in 2008, the
25 Exhibit 3, that the governor of the state of California

1 (sic) proclaimed May 1, 2008, to be the Colorado Day of
2 Prayer?

3 MR. GROVE: You said the state of
4 California, I assume you mean Colorado?

5 MR. BOLTON: I'm sorry, Colorado.

6 Q. (By Mr. Bolton) That the governor of the
7 state of Colorado proclaimed May 1, 2008, to be the
8 Colorado Day of Prayer.

9 MR. GROVE: Objection. Document speaks
10 for itself. Go ahead.

11 A. Is there a question in there? I'm sorry.
12 Yes, he did proclaim it May 1st, 2008, Colorado Day of
13 Prayer.

14 MR. BOLTON: That's all.

15 MR. GROVE: That's all I have.

16 (Whereupon, the deposition was concluded
17 at 11:08 a.m.)

18

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1 I have read the foregoing transcript of
2 my testimony and have indicated same by my signature.

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CRAIG BANNISTER

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DENVER)

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the
said CRAIG BANNISTER, this _____ day
of _____, 2010.

My commission expires:

Notary Public

Address

Reporter: TSC

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF COLORADO)
COUNTY OF DENVER) ss.

I, Teresa Chaplin, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that previous to the commencement of the examination, the said CRAIG BANNISTER was duly sworn by me to testify to the truth in relation to the matters in controversy between the said parties; that said deposition was taken in shorthand by me and was reduced to typewritten form by computer-aided transcription; that the foregoing is a true transcript of the questions asked, testimony given, and proceedings had; that I am not attorney, nor counsel, nor in any way connected with any attorney or counsel for any of the parties to said action or otherwise interested in its event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand and notarial seal this 1st day of June, 2010.

My commission expires: January 15, 2012.

TERESA CHAPLIN
Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public
CALDERWOOD-MACKELPRANG, INC.

1 CALDERWOOD-MACKELPRANG, INC.
4410 Zuni Street
2 Denver, Colorado 80211
(303) 477-3500

3
4 June 1, 2008

5 MATTHEW D. GROVE, ESQ.
Assistant Attorney General
1525 Sherman Street, 7th Floor
6 Denver, Colorado 80203

7 Re: Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc., et al., v.
Ritter, et al.

8
9 Deposition of: CRAIG BANNISTER

10 The deposition in the above-entitled matter is ready
for reading and signing. Please attend to this matter
by complying with ALL blanks checked below:

11
12 ___ arranging with us at the number listed above to
read and sign the deposition in our office.

13 ___ having deponent read the extra copy and sign
14 amendment sheets, if any (original signature page
enclosed).

15 XXX reading enclosed deposition, signing attached
signature page and correction sheet, if any.

16 XXX within 30 days of the date of this letter.

17 ___ by _____ due to the trial date of

18 _____.

19 Please be sure that the signature page and accompanying
20 amendment sheets, if any, are signed before a notary
public and returned to our office at the above address.

21 If this matter has not been taken care of within said
22 period of time, the deposition will be filed unsigned
pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure. Thank you.

23 TERESA CHAPLIN

24 c: Richard L. Bolton, Esq.

25

1 CALDERWOOD-MACKELPRANG, INC.
4410 Zuni Street
2 Denver, Colorado 80211
(303) 477-3500
3

RICHARD L. BOLTON, ESQ.
4 Boardman, Suhr, Curry & Field, LLP
1 South Pinckney Street, 4th Floor
5 P.O. Box 927
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-0927
6

Re: Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc., et al., v.
7 Ritter, et al.

8 Dear Mr. Bolton:

9 Enclosed is the deposition of: CRAIG BANNISTER
10 _____ Previously filed. Forwarding signature page and
amendment sheets.

11 _____ Signed, no changes.

12 _____ Signed, with changes, copy of which is enclosed.

13 _____ Unsigned, notice duly given _____.
14 Pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure.

15 _____ Not signed, notice duly given _____.
16 Since trial is set for _____.

17 _____ No Signature required.

18 _____ Signature waived.

19 _____ To be signed in court.

20 _____ Signature pages/amendment sheet to be returned to
court on date of hearing.

21 _____ Mailed by certified mail No. _____.
22 On approximately _____.

23 _____ Hand-delivered on approximately _____.

24 TERESA CHAPLIN

25 Enclosures (As above noted)

EXHIBIT 2

Honorary Proclamation



BILL OWENS
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER May 6, 2004

WHEREAS, our forefathers, recognizing the need for spiritual guidance, founded the United States as "One Nation Under God"; and

WHEREAS, Congress, in a 1954 joint resolution signed by President Truman, permanently established an annual National Day of Prayer, which President Reagan, in 1988, defined as the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, our nation allows each citizen the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges Leviticus 25:10 with the theme "Let Freedom Ring"; and

WHEREAS, across our land on May 6th, Americans will unite in prayer for our nation, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Now Therefore, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as the

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-fifth day of February, 2004

Bill Owens.

Bill Owens
Governor

EXHIBIT

2

EXHIBIT 3

Honorary Proclamation



BILL OWENS
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER May 5, 2005

WHEREAS, the authors of the Declaration of Independence recognized "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"; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer, established in 1954 and defined by President Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May, provides Americans with the chance to congregate in celebration of these endowed rights; and

WHEREAS, each citizen has the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

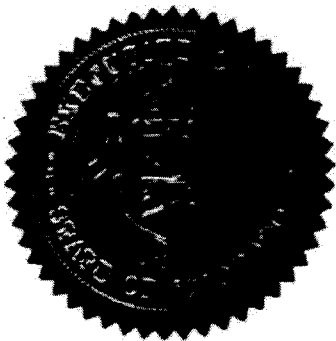
WHEREAS, in 2005, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" - with the theme "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, individuals across this state and nation will unite in prayer for our country, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Now Therefore, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as the

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this thirty-first day of
March, 2005

Bill Owens.
Bill Owens
Governor

EXHIBIT

3

EXHIBIT 4

Honorary Proclamation



BILL OWENS
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER
May 4, 2006

WHEREAS, the authors of the Declaration of Independence recognized "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"; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer, established in 1954 and defined by President Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May, provides Americans with the chance to congregate in celebration of these endowed rights; and

WHEREAS, each citizen has the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

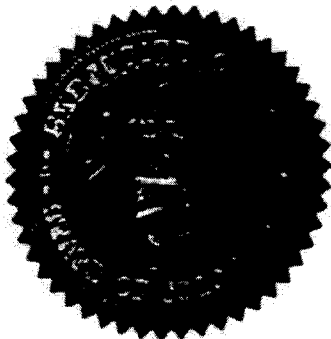
WHEREAS, in 2006, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges 1 Samuel 2:30 - "Those who honor me, I will honor," and the theme "America, Honor God"; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, individuals across this state and nation will unite in prayer for our country, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Now Therefore, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as a

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this fourteenth day of
March, 2006

Bill Owens
Bill Owens
Governor

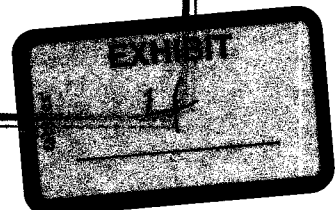


EXHIBIT 5

Honorary Proclamation



BILL RITTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER May 3, 2007

WHEREAS, the authors of the Declaration of Independence recognized "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"; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer, established in 1952 and defined by President Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May, provides Americans with the chance to congregate in celebration of these endowed rights; and

WHEREAS, each citizen has the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

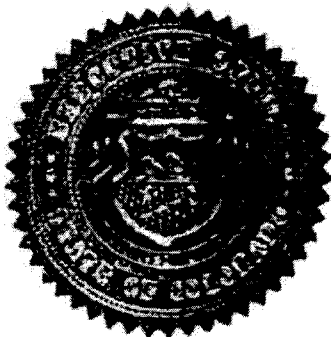
WHEREAS, in 2007, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges 2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2007, individuals across this state and nation will unite in prayer for our country, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007,

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this fourteenth day of March, 2007

Bill Ritter, Jr.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor



EXHIBIT 6

Honorary Proclamation



BILL RITTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER May 1, 2008

WHEREAS, the authors of the Declaration of Independence recognized "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;" and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer, established in 1952 and defined by President Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May, provides Americans with the chance to congregate in celebration of these endowed rights; and

WHEREAS, each citizen has the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the National Day of Prayer acknowledges Psalm 28:7- "The Lord is my strength and shield, my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;" and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2008, individuals across this state and nation will unite in prayer for our country, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008,

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this twenty-fourth day of
March, 2008

Bill Ritter Jr.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor



EXHIBIT 7

Honorary Proclamation



BILL RITTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER May 7, 2009

WHEREAS, the authors of the Declaration of Independence recognized "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;" and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer, established in 1952 and defined by President Ronald Reagan as the first Thursday in May, provides Americans with the chance to congregate in celebration of these endowed rights; and

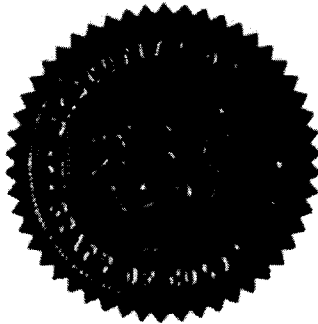
WHEREAS, each citizen has the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray, whether in public or private; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2009, individuals across this state and nation will unite in prayer for our country, our state, our leaders, and our people;

Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009,

COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Colorado.



*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this twentieth day of April,
2009*

Bill Ritter Jr.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

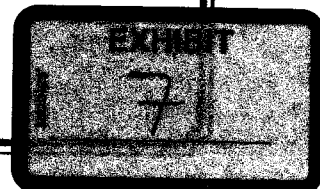


EXHIBIT 8

<Name>
<Address>
<Address>
<City> <Zip>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! Yet another National Day of Prayer is right around the corner, and it is my privilege to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our nation.

In preparation for this observance, each year the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you issue a proclamation urging the people of <State> to assemble on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in order to pray for our nation's leaders and citizens.

To ensure that a proclamation from your office is incorporated in this year's observance, we respectfully request that you take the following steps:

- After completing your proclamation, return a copy to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by April 1. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with further details.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at hillbr@fotf.org. Bobbie would be happy to field any inquiries you may have.

The 2005 theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Given the many challenges facing our country and its people, it seems particularly fitting that we should gather to request the Almighty's intervention as we respond to the threats confronting us – both within our borders and overseas.

Thank you in advance for lending your support to our NDP observance, Governor <Name>. Your participation will not only be a valuable addition to our May 5 events, but it will come as an encouragement to the people of <State>. God bless you and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force





January 24, 2006

<Name>
<Address 1>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! We are quickly approaching yet another National Day of Prayer, and I consider it an honor to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our country.

We're convinced that our theme for this year, America, Honor God, will serve as a valuable reminder that the Lord is at work in this great land and is deserving of our veneration and absolute trust. Whether facing difficulties at home or overseas, we hope people will look to the promise found in I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor." With your support, we can further our efforts to call the nation to prayer, acknowledging our Creator and asking for guidance and protection on behalf of our families, our government, and our armed forces.

Will you join with us in this endeavor by issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer for <State>? It has become customary for the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to officially endorse the National Day of Prayer, and we hope you will do the same this year.

We respectfully request that you send your proclamation to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by April 1. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with more details. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at bobbie.hill@fotf.org.

We look forward to hearing from you. Your proclamation will be a meaningful contribution to this year's NDP observance, and to the people of <State>. May God bless you and your staff in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

COPY

2007

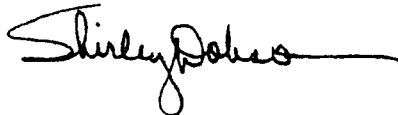
Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Every year since Congress established an annual day of prayer in 1952, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our country. Given the extent to which our culture has deviated from the moral underpinnings upon which our nation was founded, it behooves us to honor the precedent set forth by our forefathers.

The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered over 200 years ago, echo our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of an infant republic he said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Today, we may face different trials, but we are not far removed from the desperation of Jefferson's sentiments. How good it is to know, then, that our distress is tempered by our confidence in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, we have chosen **America, Unite in Prayer** as our theme for 2007, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support in the form of a public proclamation declaring May 3, 2007 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States and last year, every governor in the nation, as well as those in our U.S. territories, participated. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to us here at NDP headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <SC name>, who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Bush. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor «Governor», and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you continue to faithfully serve the people of «State»!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
SD/eb

COPY

January 8, 2008

<Name>
<Street Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Name>:

A warm greeting to you from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! In an historic declaration in 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer during which people throughout the United States were encouraged to pause in repentance and intercession for our nation. Each year since then, millions of Americans have assembled in various venues to seek the Lord's guidance, protection and blessing upon our land and its people. In light of the unprecedented challenges and threats facing our leaders and fellow citizens today, it's particularly important that we continue to ask for the Almighty's intervention on behalf of our country.

In a 1776 document in which the Continental Congress called for a national fast, Americans were exhorted "in times of impending calamity and distress ... to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger..." It is with this keen awareness of our reliance upon God that we have selected our 2008 theme, *Prayer! America's Strength and Shield*. The underlying scripture is Psalm 28:7, which declares, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

As has become customary, we ask that you acknowledge the historic role that prayer has played in our nation by issuing a statement proclaiming May 1, 2008 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this observance has been recognized and endorsed annually by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor also acknowledged this day, including those in our U.S. territories. May we ask you to lend your support to this important event as well? Please send a copy of your official proclamation to us here at NDP headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you in the near future. Each governor's statement will be included in a special bound volume that will be presented to President Bush. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803. You may also reach her via e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

Your consideration of our request is deeply appreciated, Governor <Name>
We look forward to hearing from you. Until then, may God grant you and your staff abundant measures of wisdom and discernment in your continued service to the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
SD/rw

January 22, 2009

<Name>
<Street Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Last Name>:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Each year since 1952 when Congress established an annual day of prayer, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our nation. These are extremely difficult times our country is facing from economic turmoil to the threat of terrorism to moral confusion and decline. It behooves us at this critical juncture to again honor the precedent established by Presidents and leaders throughout our history, that of proclaiming reliance on an Almighty God and calling Americans to come before Him on behalf of our nation.

The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered in 1781 and found engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflect our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of the infant republic, he said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God." Today, our trials and challenges to freedom may be different, but our need to remember the truth of Jefferson's sentiments remains. How good it is to know that, despite the distress we are experiencing, we can come confidently before the Almighty, knowing that He is merciful and has promised to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, our NDP Task Force has chosen PRAYER...AMERICA'S HOPE as our theme for 2009, based on Psalm 33: 22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support through a public proclamation declaring May 7, 2009 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor in the nation did so as well. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to the NDP Task Force headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <name> who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Obama. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our Senior Manager, National Coordinator Network at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor <last name>, and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you faithfully serve the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
Pls_Rsp_Req_POD_435

EXHIBIT 9

Home News Business Sports Entertainment Living Outdoors Opinion Multimedia Jobs Autos Real Estate Classifieds Shop
Breaking News & Updates Local Nation World Weather Traffic Education Politics Election '06 Opinions Special Reports Columns & Blogs

BREAKING NEWS: Swiss man flies over Engl

Jean Torkelson, Rocky Mountain News
Published May 4, 2007 at midnight

Music, prayer and a governor on the state Capitol steps - it was a combination that thrilled organizers of Thursday's annual National Day of Prayer celebration.

"We should be prayerful in all things, and mindful of the importance of prayer for all men and women who serve abroad, and for their families that wait here for their return," Gov. Bill Ritter told several hundred Christians on the Capitol lawn.

"This is huge," said the Rev. Phil Eberhart, one of the organizers, about the impact of Ritter's presence. He's the first governor in the organizers' memory to attend the National Day of Prayer Capitol event, though Gov. Bill Owens was a frequent attendee at other prayer observances.

Ritter, a Democrat whose social agenda is often at odds with conservatives, met with organizers about six weeks ago and prayed with them, Eberhart said.

"It shows you can't trust stereotypes," state coordinator Willow Kauffman said Thursday.

More than 70 National Day of Prayer events were held in Colorado.

Some secularists complain that the observance is inappropriate and has been commandeered by right-wing evangelicals.

This week, the American Humanist Association called the National Day of Prayer "divisive" and a "political prop," and said that it wants to displace the day with a "National Day of Reason."

Eberhart said that critics are free to celebrate the day as they please.

"They have the same rights as we have to gather and express their (beliefs)," he said. "That's the First Amendment."

More than 20 speakers led the crowd in prayer for a long list of needs, including the military and young people - two groups seen as especially in harm's way.

Former Bronco Randy Gradishar prayed that the media and entertainment industries would be restored to moral goodness for the sake of young people.

"They deserve to experience a decent, Godly society," Gradishar said.

Chris Thibodeau, 40, an Air Force master sergeant, came with his family. The veteran of the first Persian Gulf War and the war in Bosnia said he was there, first, "to praise Jesus," and then to pray for "wisdom and guidance for the leaders of our country that they make the right decisions at the right time."

There were cheers as Ritter read the official proclamation, which stipulated that the National Day of Prayer - established 54 years ago by Congress, and set on the first Thursday of May by President Ronald Reagan - was a day for Americans to gather to celebrate the rights endowed by their Creator.

Celebration was the operative word to Rep. Debbie Stafford, R-Aurora, a perennial participant, who introduced a troop of supportive legislators - eight Republicans and five Democrats - who left the House floor to hear the gospel music and pray with the crowd.

"We were trying to keep our votes up to the beat of the music, and some of us wanted to dance in the aisles of the state Capitol," Stafford said.

torkelson@RockyMountainNews.com

Featured
A Dozen on Denver



Read or listen to Nick Arvin's contribution to our fiction series, 'A Dozen on Denver'
Broncos



Get the Broncos scouting report
Rocky Multimedia



EXHIBIT 10

Colorado Prayer Luncheon

[History](#) | [Program](#) | [Host Committee](#) | [This Year's Speaker](#) | [Past Speakers](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Purchase Tickets](#)

About The Colorado Prayer Luncheon



Governor Bill Ritter presenting the welcome from the state address.

Historically the leadership of our Nation has turned to Almighty God for strength and guidance.

In this spirit, the United States Senate and the House of Representatives

Breakfast Groups, which meet to deepen friendships, to pray and counsel together, inaugurated the National Prayer Breakfast to specifically seek the Lord's guidance and strength as well as to affirm our faith and to renew the dedication of our Nation and ourselves to God and His purposes. The Colorado Prayer Luncheon follows in this historical tradition.

ARTICLE about the 2008 Colorado Prayer Luncheon
[Click here >](#)

See PHOTOS of the 2008 Colorado Prayer Luncheon
[Click here >](#)

Colorado Prayer Luncheon

The Host Committee of the Colorado Prayer Luncheon requests the pleasure of your company at the Twenty-first Annual Colorado Prayer Luncheon

with members of the Host Committee and state leaders in the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of our government

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Guest Speaker: Philip Yancey

Guests to be seated by 11:30 a.m.

*Korbel Ballroom, Colorado Convention Center
700 14th Street
Denver, Colorado*

*Adjournment
1:30 p.m.*

© 2005 • Phone: 303-753-1370 • email: jane@resourcefulsolutions.biz • Colorado Prayer Luncheon photos courtesy of Blacktie® • Colorado



EXHIBIT 11

2005 NOV -7 AM 6:25

DCS



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: NOV 4, 2005
(Thursday)

1. Requested Date: May 4, 2006 Alternate Date: None

Exact location of proposed activity: West Steps Site Lincoln Park Site Special Request

If you choose "Special Request", mark the specific location Pearl Harbor Memorial Closing Era Monument
 Armenian Garden U.S.S. Colorado Memorial Civil War Monument Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 8 a.m. a.m. p.m. End Time: 3:00 a.m. p.m.
(Exclude set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer
If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: MIKE + DEBRA VIGIL Work Phone: 303 918-2865
Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: 303 594-6079 Fax: 303 933-3800

Home Phone: 303 948-9200 E-mail: MIKE@UTILITY-AUDIT.COM

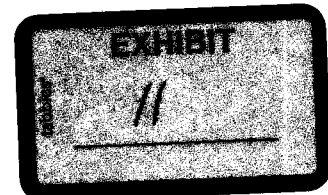
Address: P.O. BOX 36130 City: DENVER State: CO Zip: 80236

3. Event Description A celebration of Natl. Day of Prayer that is an annual holiday established by an act of Congress (1952) which encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders.

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 500-1000.

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate sheet.

A one hour program of worship + prayer by church + community leaders, legislators, color guard, home-schoolers (pledge) with worship band. A podium + sound system is used. Registration table for participants set up also.



6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified 4 - orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

STATE COORDINATORS
Position of person filing the application


Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number.

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Special Programs Specialist
1225 Sherman Street, B-16
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 556-4367
Fax: (303) 556-2470

EXHIBIT 12



The Annual
**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

First Thursday of May

Fax Form

Colorado National Day of Prayer
1548 S. Mountainview Rd.
Castle Rock, CO 80109
Phone # 303-660-1827
Fax # 303-814-2919

TO: Lucy Trujillo

Fax#: 303-866-2470

FROM: Willow Kauffman
Colorado Coordinator, National Day of Prayer

DATE: 4/12/07

PAGES: 3 (including cover sheet)

SUBJECT: National Day of Prayer

Special Instructions/ Message

Lucy, I have added
KPOF + KRKS vans to our application
these radio stations will air the
program live.
P.S. Governor Ritter will be a part
of this program

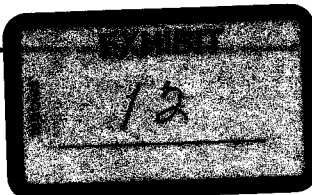


EXHIBIT 13



2006 MAR 14 PM 3:12



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: ~~Nov 4, 2005~~ ^{Thursday} March 14, 2006

J.K.

OK

1. Requested Date: May 4, 2006 Alternate Date: None

OK

Exact location of proposed activity: West Steps Site Lincoln Park Site Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location Pearl Harbor Memorial Closing Era Monument Armenian Garden U.S.S. Colorado Memorial Civil War Monument Sand Creek Plaque

OK

Start Time: 9:00 a.m. p.m. End Time: 5:00 a.m. p.m.
(Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: National Day of Prayer
If your organization goes by an acronym (Initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Willow Kayzman Work Phone: () _____
Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: () 303-905-6970 Fax: () 303-814-2919

Home Phone: () 303-660-1827 E-mail: _____

Address: 1548 S. Mountainview Rd Castle Rock CO zip 80109

3. Event Description Prayer + Praise in the Park for National Day of Prayer.

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 300+

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate sheet.

Worship bands, prayer teams,
free hotdogs & lemonade
tables w/ prayer activities



6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified 2+ orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Volunteer CD, NDP
Position of person filing the application

William A. Kaufman
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-16
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4367
Fax: (303) 866-2470



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: Nov 3, 2006

1. Requested Date: Thursday MAY 3, 2007 Alternate Date: _____

Exact location of proposed activity: West Steps Site Lincoln Park Site Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location Pearl Harbor Memorial Closing Era Monument
 Armenian Garden U.S.S. Colorado Memorial Civil War Monument Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 10³⁰ a.m. p.m. End Time: 3:00 pm a.m. p.m.
(Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer
If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Willard Kauffman Work Phone: () _____
Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: (303) 905-6970 Fax: (303) - 814-2919

* Home Phone: (303) - 660-1827 E-mail: DustyBritchesRanch@aol.net

Address: 1548 S. Mountainview Rd. Castle Rock State CO 80109

3. Event Description A celebration of Natl. Day of Prayer that is an annual holiday established by an act of Congress (1952) which encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders.

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 500-1000

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate sheet.

A one hour program of worship & prayer by church and community leaders, legislators, color guard, home-schoolers (pledge) with worship band. A podium & sound system is used. Registration table for participants set up also.

Also, a Bible Marathon on 4 sides of Capitol from 10:30 - 11:30 am. up to 75 people on each side (N.S.E.W) reading their Bibles. (will stay out of the way of steps

* → a traffic) KPOF + KRKS radio will have vans to air this program live.

6. Will you require access to electricity?

Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified.

4 - orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Colorado Coordinator, NDP
Position of person filling the application

William A. Kaufman
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above please print the signer's name and contact number.

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-16
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4387
Fax: (303) 866-2470

2007 NOV -2 AM 6:34



First-Choice-for-Service



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: Nov 2, 2007

1. Requested Date: Thursday May 1, 2008 Alternate Date: N/A

Exact location of proposed activity: [X] West Steps Site [] Lincoln Park Site [] Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location [] Pearl Harbor Memorial [] Closing Era Monument [] Armenian Garden [] U.S.S. Colorado Memorial [] Civil War Monument [] Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 10:30 [X] a.m. [] p.m. End Time: 3:00 [] a.m. [X] p.m. (Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Amy Everette Work Phone: () 303-814-1379 Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: () 303-246-5395 Fax: () 443-817-1379

Home Phone: () 303-814-1975 E-mail: amy@antechmarketing.com

Address: 132 Pin Oak Circle City: Franktown State CO Zip 80116

3. Event Description Celebration of National Day of Prayer - a government sanctioned annual holiday established by an Act of Congress in 1952. The event encourages Americans to pray for our nation

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 500 - 1000

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

A 1-hour program of worship and prayer by church and community leaders, legislators, color guard, home school families, and others.

A podium and sound system is used along with a registration table.

Radio stations (at least 2) will have vans to air the program.

A Bible Reading Marathon will take place on all 4 sides of the Capitol from 10:30 - 11:30 am. Up to 75 people on each side (N, E, S, W) reading their bibles. We will stay out of the way of steps + sidewalk traffic.

JULY 2007

West Steps Site
p. 2

6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified. 4 Marshalls wearing orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Colorado Coordinator, NDA
Position of person filing the application

Ernette
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Request for Waiver of 30 Day Notification

Pursuant to State Capitol Buildings Group Grounds Permit Regulation 1.32:

Applicants shall submit legible and complete permit applications in writing on a form provided by the Executive Director so as to be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of any demonstration or special event. Applications will not be accepted more than one year before the proposed demonstration or special event is scheduled to occur. The Executive Director may waive the thirty (30) day notice requirement for demonstrations but only if: (1) the applicant can demonstrate the impossibility of applying for a permit within the time limitations set out in this paragraph; (2) a permit is applied for before the demonstration begins; and (3) the Executive Director determines that all relevant and appropriate conditions, limitations and requirements are or will be met, and he issues a permit for the demonstration.

Please provide explanation for waiver request: _____

Return the completed, signed application to:

**Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-15
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4357
Fax: (303) 866-2470**

2007 NOV -2 AM 6:35



First Choice for Service



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: Nov 2, 2007

1. Requested Date: Thursday May 1, 2008 Alternate Date: N/A

Exact location of proposed activity: West Steps Site Lincoln Park Site Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location Pearl Harbor Memorial Closing Era Monument Armenian Garden U.S.S. Colorado Memorial Civil War Monument Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 9:00 a.m. p.m. End Time: 5:00 a.m. p.m.
(Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer
If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Amy Everette Work Phone: (303) 814-1379
Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: (393) 246 5395 Fax: () 443-817-1379

Home Phone: () 303 814 1975 E-mail: amy@amtechmarketing.com

Address: 132 Pin Oak Circle City: Franktown State CO zip 80116

3. Event Description Prayer + praise in the park to honor our nation during the National Day of Prayer

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 300

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

Worship bands, prayer teams, free hot dogs + drinks
Prayer tents or tables for prayer activities
Agenda is to pray for people participating in the national Day of Prayer and passers by

Lincoln Park Site
p. 2

6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified. 2 marshalls wearing
orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Colorado Coordinator, NDP
Position of person filing the application

Everette
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Request for Waiver of 30 Day Notification

Pursuant to State Capitol Buildings Group Grounds Permit Regulation 1.32:

Applicants shall submit legible and complete permit applications in writing on a form provided by the Executive Director so as to be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of any demonstration or special event. Applications will not be accepted more than one year before the proposed demonstration or special event is scheduled to occur. *The Executive Director may waive the thirty (30) day notice requirement for demonstrations but only if: (1) the applicant can demonstrate the impossibility of applying for a permit within the time limitations set out in this paragraph; (2) a permit is applied for before the demonstration begins; and (3) the Executive Director determines that all relevant and appropriate conditions, limitations and requirements are or will be met, and he issues a permit for the demonstration.*

Please provide explanation for waiver request: _____

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-15
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4357
Fax: (303) 866-2470



First Choice for Service



REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: 11/2/07

1. Requested Date: Thursday May 1, 2008 Alternate Date: N/A

Exact location of proposed activity: [] West Steps Site [] Lincoln Park Site [X] Special Request East Side Capital Bldg

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location [] Pearl Harbor Memorial [] Closing Era Monument [] Armenian Garden [] U.S.S. Colorado Memorial [] Civil War Monument [] Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 9:00 [X] a.m. [] p.m. End Time: 12:00 noon [X] a.m. [] p.m.

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer

Contact: Amy Everette Work Phone: () 303 814 1379

Cell Phone: () 303 246 5395 Fax: () 443-817-1379

Home Phone: () 303 814 1975 E-mail: amy@amtechmarketing.com

Address: 132 Pin Oak Circle City: Franktown State CO Zip 80116

3. Event Description Bible Reading Marathon in support of National Day of Prayer

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 200

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

Registration Table on the east side of the capital building. Participants will sit so as to not block the flow of traffic while they read their bibles from 10:30 11:30 am There will be 75+ people on each side of the capital for this event.

6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified. 1 Marshall wearing
an orange vest

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Colorado Coordinator NDP
Position of person filling the application

A. Eveste
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Request for Waiver of 30 Day Notification

Pursuant to State Capitol Buildings Group Grounds Permit Regulation 1.32:

Applicants shall submit legible and complete permit applications in writing on a form provided by the Executive Director so as to be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of any demonstration or special event. Applications will not be accepted more than one year before the proposed demonstration or special event is scheduled to occur. *The Executive Director may waive the thirty (30) day notice requirement for demonstrations but only if: (1) the applicant can demonstrate the impossibility of applying for a permit within the time limitations set out in this paragraph; (2) a permit is applied for before the demonstration begins; and (3) the Executive Director determines that all relevant and appropriate conditions, limitations and requirements are or will be met, and he issues a permit for the demonstration.*

Please provide explanation for waiver request: _____

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-15
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4357
Fax: (303) 866-2470



First Choice for Service



DPA

REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: Nov 12, 2008

1. Requested Date: Thurs. May 7, 2009 Alternate Date: N/A

Exact location of proposed activity: [X] West Steps Site [] Lincoln Park Site [] Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location [] Pearl Harbor Memorial [] Closing Era Monument [] Armenian Garden [] U.S.S. Colorado Memorial [] Civil War Monument [] Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 10:30 [X] a.m. [] p.m. End Time: 3:00 [] a.m. [X] p.m. (Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Lori McKinney Work Phone: 720 482 1462 Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: 720-891-7944 Fax: 443-517-1379

Home Phone: 720 482 1462 E-mail: lori.mckinney2002@yahoo.com

Address: PO Box 18481 City: Denver State CO Zip 80218

3. Event Description National Day of Prayer Celebration - a government sanctioned day of prayer established by an Act of Congress in 1952 - encourages Americans to pray for our country

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 500 - 1000

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be

provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

A two hour program of worship and prayer by community leaders, church leaders, intercessors, school leaders, business leaders, etc. A podium and sound system is used along with a registration table. At least 2 radio stations will have vans onsite to air the meeting.

West Steps Request
p. 2

6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified. 4 Marshalls
wearing orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

State Coordinator
Position of person filing the application

[Signature]
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Request for Waiver of 30 Day Notification

Pursuant to State Capitol Buildings Group Grounds Permit Regulation 1.32:

Applicants shall submit legible and complete permit applications in writing on a form provided by the Executive Director so as to be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of any demonstration or special event. Applications will not be accepted more than one year before the proposed demonstration or special event is scheduled to occur. The Executive Director may waive the thirty (30) day notice requirement for demonstrations but only if: (1) the applicant can demonstrate the impossibility of applying for a permit within the time limitations set out in this paragraph; (2) a permit is applied for before the demonstration begins; and (3) the Executive Director determines that all relevant and appropriate conditions, limitations and requirements are or will be met, and he issues a permit for the demonstration.

Please provide explanation for waiver request: _____

Return the completed, signed application to:

Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-15
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4357
Fax: (303) 866-2470



First Choice for Service



DPA

REQUEST FOR USE OF STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES

Application Date: Nov. 12 2008

1. Requested Date: Thurs. May 7 2009 Alternate Date: N/A

Exact location of proposed activity: [] West Steps Site [X] Lincoln Park Site [] Special Request

If you chose "Special Request", mark the specific location [] Pearl Harbor Memorial [] Closing Era Monument [] Armenian Garden [] U.S.S. Colorado Memorial [] Civil War Monument [] Sand Creek Plaque

Start Time: 9:00 [X] a.m. [] p.m. End Time: 5:00 [] a.m. [X] p.m. (Include set up and clean up times)

2. Sponsor/Organization: Colorado National Day of Prayer If your organization goes by an acronym (initials), indicate full name of organization.

Contact: Lori McKinney Work Phone: 720-482-1462 Note: The Contact Person on this application MUST be present for the entire event.

Cell Phone: 720-891-7944 Fax: 443-817-1379

Home Phone: 720-482-1462 E-mail: lor.mckinney2002@yahoo.com

Address: PO Box 18481 City: Denver State CO Zip 80218

3. Event Description Prayer and Worship in the park to honor our Nation during the National Day of Prayer

4. Estimated Maximum Number of Participants: 1,000-2,000

5. All Events. Include a list of all principal speakers, agenda, props, stages, sound equipment and other items to be provided by applicant/sponsor, if available (approx. number and size(s) of supports, standards and handles, necessary medical/sanitary facilities and other similar items). Also include proposed route of any march or parade and plans for the orderly termination and dispersal of the proposed activity that might affect the regular flow of traffic. If more room is needed, please attach information on separate a sheet.

Worship bands, Prayer teams, Concessions, Prayer tables. Agenda is to pray for people participating in the National Day of Prayer and for passers by.

Lincoln Park Request
p. 2

6. Will you require access to electricity? Yes No

7. Will you provide an "Event Marshal"? Yes No

If yes, please indicate how many and how they will be identified. 2-6 Marshalls
Wearing orange vests

APPLICATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

State Coordinator
Position of person filing the application

[Signature] Everette
Signature of person filing the application

Note: If the person signing this application is different than the contact person listed in section 2 above, please print the signer's name and contact number:

Request for Waiver of 30 Day Notification

Pursuant to State Capitol Buildings Group Grounds Permit Regulation 1.32:

Applicants shall submit legible and complete permit applications in writing on a form provided by the Executive Director so as to be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of any demonstration or special event. Applications will not be accepted more than one year before the proposed demonstration or special event is scheduled to occur. *The Executive Director may waive the thirty (30) day notice requirement for demonstrations but only if: (1) the applicant can demonstrate the impossibility of applying for a permit within the time limitations set out in this paragraph; (2) a permit is applied for before the demonstration begins; and (3) the Executive Director determines that all relevant and appropriate conditions, limitations and requirements are or will be met, and he issues a permit for the demonstration.*

Please provide explanation for waiver request: _____

Return the completed, signed application to:

**Division of Central Services
Permit Program Specialist
1525 Sherman Street, B-15
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-4357
Fax: (303) 866-2470**

EXHIBIT 14



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort, and protection where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings which God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, prayer has comforted us in times of sorrow, and given us strength and hope for the future. We ask God to keep His hand upon us and bless the great State of Florida and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, we continue to give thanks for the men and women of the military that are defending our freedom and we humbly ask God for their protection. We pray for peace throughout the world; and

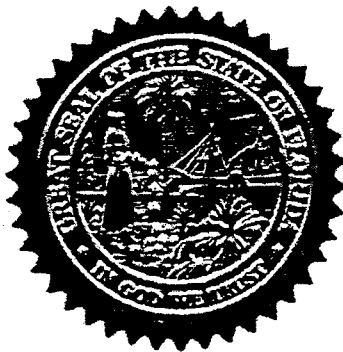
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 57th anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme this year is, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," based on Psalm 28:7 which declares "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped;" and

WHEREAS, on May 1st, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate repentance and renewal and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 1, 2008 as the *National Day of Prayer*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 31st day of January, in the year two thousand eight.



Charlie Crist
Governor





Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, representing many nations and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God with needs both great and small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that Almighty Being, Who rules over the universe, Who presides in the councils of the nations, and Whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." – George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the Almighty disposer of events – to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under Whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's God." – William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray – to really pray." – Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the Divine Being." – Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." – Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer, Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" a reaffirmation for the biblical exhortation in Psalm 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, to be

DAY OF PRAYER

in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho in Boise on this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty second and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred eighteenth.



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN BURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF ILLINOIS



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in times of peril both at home and abroad, many American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and

WHEREAS, millions of men and women across the nation gratefully continue the tradition of prayer in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship across our country; and

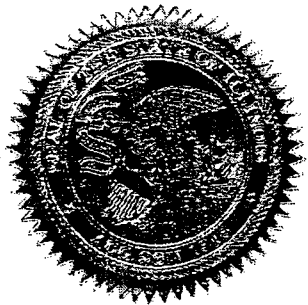
WHEREAS, established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens' freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment. Americans treasure their religious freedom, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the National Day of Prayer 2008 is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" inspired by the passage found in Psalm 28:7, which declares, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped.";

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this FOURTH day of FEBRUARY, in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
EIGHT, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and NINETIETH

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR

4

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

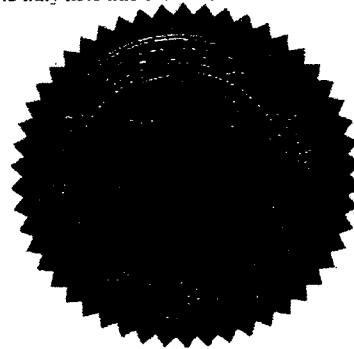
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, prayer to the Almighty God is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit; and
- WHEREAS, prayer has aided many in times where support and guidance are needed; and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity which our nation and state enjoy and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception; and
- WHEREAS, the Day of Prayer is a time set aside for Americans to pray to their heavenly Father and to reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Indiana and the United States of America can and will benefit from prayer by its faithful and prayerful residents; and
- WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Prayer: America's Strength and Shield," is inspired by the scripture Psalm 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;" and
- WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer provides a powerful opportunity for people to humble themselves before the Almighty and to seek the "redeeming and preserving grace" of which Lincoln so eloquently spoke in asking God to "shed His grace" on us; and
- WHEREAS, across our land, on May 1, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, it seems fitting to acknowledge these benefits as we assemble to give thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed since America's founding;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done at the
City of Indianapolis, this 10th
day of April in the year of our
Lord 2008 and of the Independence
of the United States 232.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

M E Daniels, Jr.

Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance, strength, and inspiration since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, Since the Continental Congress first declared the first Day of Prayer in 1775, the people of the United States and this great Commonwealth have regularly gathered to pray for our nation, its people, and our leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky and its citizens serve as an illustration of the abundance of blessings God will bestow upon those who pray earnestly to Him; and

WHEREAS, It is an honor and a privilege to join the nation in petitioning to God for wisdom, blessings, and protection of our President, our troops, and local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, We continue to give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women in the military and ask that God will grant them courage and grace as they bravely defend freedom throughout the world, as well as comfort their families; and

WHEREAS, We humbly ask God to safeguard Kentucky's people and continue to guide our Commonwealth in the direction of His will; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the 57th National Day of Prayer, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," is based on Psalm 28:7, which says, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped";

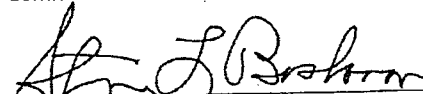
NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

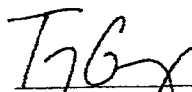
DAY OF PRAYER

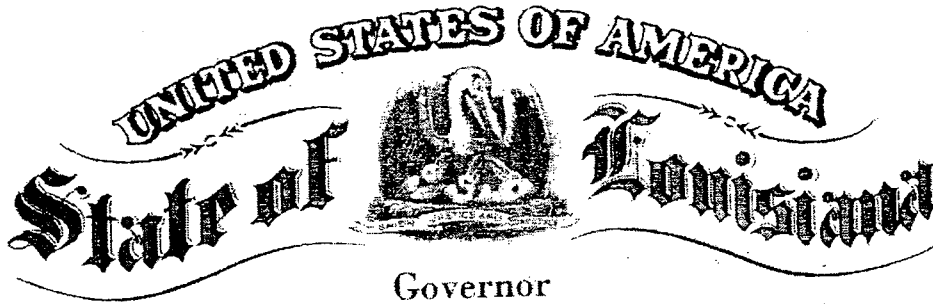
in Kentucky.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 27th day of March, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eight and in the 216th year of the Commonwealth.


STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR


Trey Grayson
Secretary of State



Governor
Bobby Jindal

Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 57th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 1, 2008, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Louisiana and its people will continue to be blessed and protected from those who threaten democracy; and

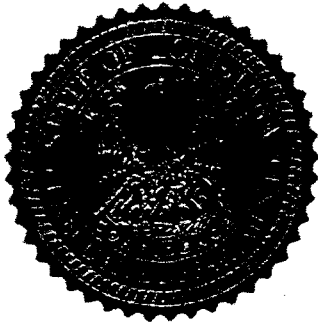
WHEREAS, "Psalm 28:7 states: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge God is sovereign and call upon Him in prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as

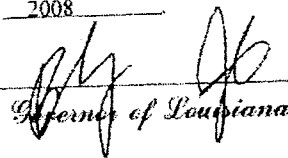
LOUISIANA DAY OF PRAYER
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By
The Governor


Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 1st day of May
A. D., 2008


Governor of Louisiana

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Established in 1952 by Congress, the National Day of Prayer has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

Whereas Each American has the freedom to worship and pray as he or she desires; and

Whereas This day provides all Massachusetts citizens the opportunity to join together in prayer to give thanks for our blessings, to ask for healing, to ask God to guide our leaders and to bring peace to our nation and the world; and

Whereas "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped," is the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, inspired by Psalm 28:7,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 1st, 2008, to be,

MASSACHUSETTS DAY OF PRAYER

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 57th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 1, 2008, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Missouri and its people will continue to be blessed and protected from those who threaten democracy; and

WHEREAS, "Psalm 28:7 states: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge God as sovereign and call upon Him in prayer;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matt Blunt, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as

MISSOURI DAY OF PRAYER

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 1st day of May, 2008.



Matt Blunt
Governor

Attest: *Robin Carnahan*
Secretary of State

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and*

WHEREAS, *The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made laws the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and*

WHEREAS, *The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and*

WHEREAS, *The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and*

WHEREAS, *It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and*

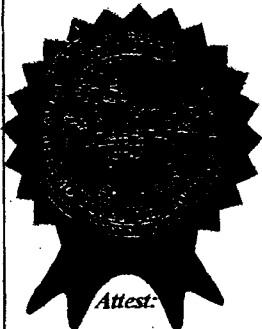
WHEREAS, *This year marks the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" reflecting the words in Psalms 28:7 that we find help as we trust in God.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 1st day of May, 2008, as a*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-Sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seven.



Attest:

Jan D. Kille
Secretary of State

Dave Heineman
Governor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 1, 2008, marks the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer with this year's theme, "Prayer, America's Strength and Shield," which was taken from Ps. 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him and I am helped;"

NOW, THEREFORE, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

MAY 1, 2008

AS

A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this first day of May in the year two thousand eight, the two hundred thirty-second year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR:

NINA MITCHELL WELLS
SECRETARY OF STATE



Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1785, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the United States of America Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and,

Whereas, this year's celebration theme, "Prayer! Americas Strength and Shield," was inspired by Psalm 28:7 that reads, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped;"

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 1, 2008, as

National Day of Prayer

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout our Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775 and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this day of prayer, *Prayer! America's Strength and Shield*, comes from the scripture Psalm 28:7, which says, "The lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped"; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Day of Prayer is recognized by Virginians and Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer for our loved ones and for our enemies, and to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize May 1, 2007, as DAY OF PRAYER in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



[Handwritten signature]

Katherine K. Hanley

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 57th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 1, 2008, as mandated by both house of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American History; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Wyoming and its people will continue to be blessed and protected; and

WHEREAS, Psalm 28:7 states: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."; and

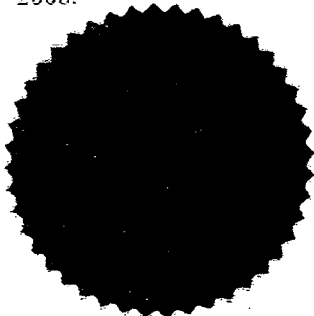
WHEREAS, this year's National Day Prayer theme is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield."


NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 4th day of March, 2008.




Governor

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 1952, Congress established an annual Day of Prayer, during which Americans of all faiths were encouraged to pause in prayer, thanking God for this land and its people and seeking inspiration, strength, and guidance, wisdom, courage, direction, and comfort; and

WHEREAS: As Americans, we need not shrink from asking for Divine assistance in our continuing efforts to relieve human suffering at home and abroad, to reduce hatred, violence, and abuse, and to restore families across our land; and

WHEREAS: Throughout the history of our Nation, our government has welcomed Divine guidance in its work, while respecting the rich and varied faiths of its citizens. From patriots and presidents to advocates for justice, our history reflects the strong presence of prayer in American life; and

WHEREAS: America was founded on the principles of religious freedom and liberty for all. By following our own beliefs while respecting the convictions of others, we can strengthen our people and build upon our promise as a State. As David reminds us in the Book of Psalms, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts Him, and I am helped"; and

WHEREAS: This year marks the 57th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer with its theme: "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield"; and

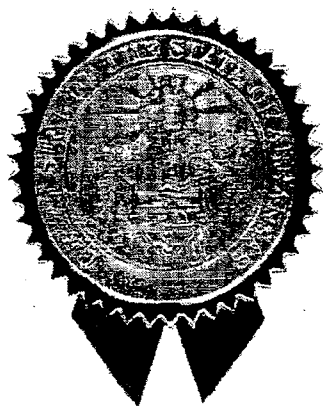
WHEREAS: On May 1, Americans are invited to join in prayer for our Nation and our States, to acknowledge God, to give thanks for the many blessings we have received, to recognize the human need for morality, and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and our people;

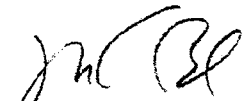
NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to pray with diligence and humility.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 1st day of April, in the year of our Lord 2008.





MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR



CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
A DAY OF PRAYER

Whereas, it is noteworthy that at our country's inception, there was a clear mandate to protect religious freedom and create an atmosphere where prayer in the public square was accepted and embraced; and

Whereas, this year's National Day of Prayer theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," brings attention to the importance of protecting the cherished rights and freedoms of all Americans to gather, worship, and pray according to the dictates of their conscience; and

Whereas, in his first inaugural address, George Washington said, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defeat, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States;" and

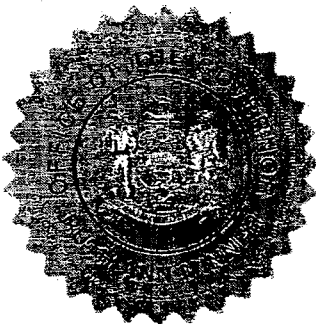
Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, Day of Prayer observances are planned in all 50 states and territories, a tradition established in 1952 by an act of Congress.

*Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor,
and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare May 1, 2008*

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Delaware and invite Delawareans to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, and meeting places to pray in their own way for the unity of all mankind, wisdom, and favor for our leaders, peace and joy for our nation, and health and prosperity for all Americans.



Ruth Ann Minner
Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

John C. Carney, Jr.
John C. Carney, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor

DB-218
Number

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

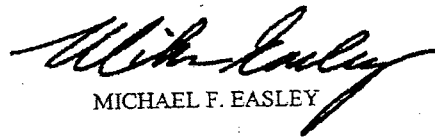
WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 1, 2008, marks the 57th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, as mandated by both Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

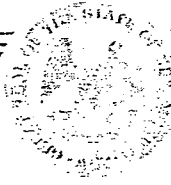
WHEREAS, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" is the theme for the 2008 National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as a "DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind, and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 101-307, officially established an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans, as it encompasses the backgrounds of all citizens and values the many faiths that they hold; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders prayed for wisdom while forming this nation and continue to look for spiritual guidance in confronting the many challenges of our day; and

WHEREAS, the United States, a country that was established by people from all regions of the globe, rely upon our religious liberty in order to preserve the individuality and diversity that gives our nation its unique richness and strength of character; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is, "America, Unite in Prayer"; //

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as:

"A Day of Prayer in New Mexico"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

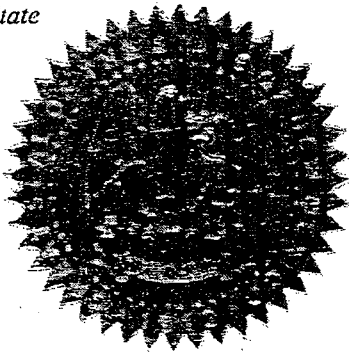
Attest:

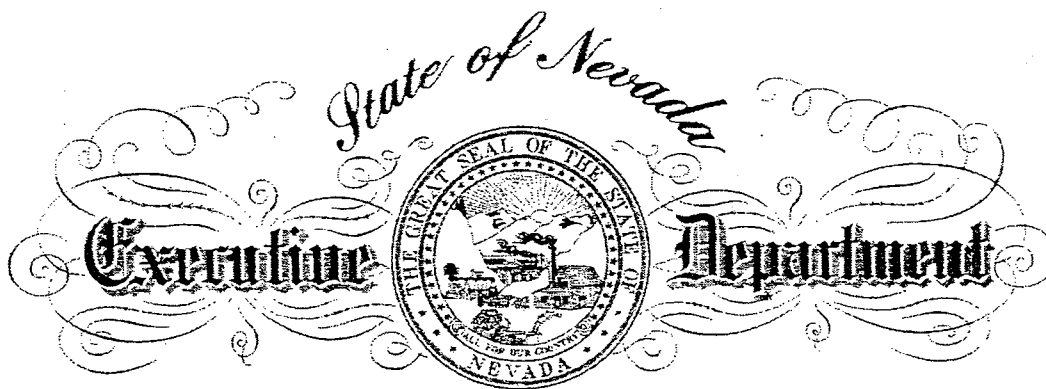
Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
10th day of March, 2008.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor





A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada will join together with the entire country on May 1, 2008, to celebrate National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald W. Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May every year; and

WHEREAS, each year, the President of the United States signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day, and in 2005, state governors and the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2008 National Day of Prayer is "Prayer, America's Strength and Shield"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada recognizes this very special day, and joins with Americans across the nation in support of the National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA



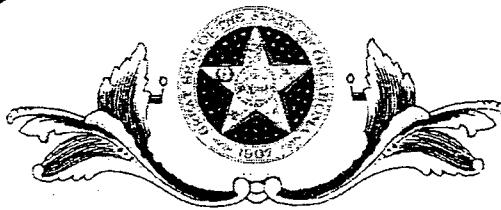
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 8th day of February, 2008.

Jim Gibbons
By the Governor: Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State

By _____
Deputy Secretary of State

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition and important occasion first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and Americans since the days of our founders have shared our dependence on God, faith and prayer while insisting on religious freedom; and

Whereas, it is eminently fitting and proper that we in Oklahoma observe a day when all of us in our communities may acknowledge our blessings, and express gratitude for them while recognizing our need for the strengthening of spiritual and moral values in our land; and

Whereas, the 2008 theme for the National Day of Prayer is "Prayer! America's Strength & Shield". Given the tragic disasters and the challenging times which test our country's will and faith, it is appropriate to turn to God for faith, repentance, support, healing, protection and guidance in order that we may honor God, build stronger communities of character based on His ways and have great hope for the future; and

Whereas, world events and our great need at this time, make this a critical year for prayer to Almighty God for ourselves, our communities and our leaders; and

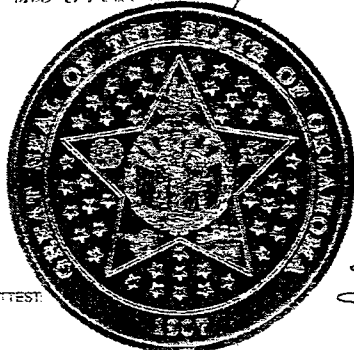
Whereas, prayer reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in troubled and difficult times;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim
May 1, 2008, as

"A Day of Prayer"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 14th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundredth year.

Brad Henry
GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE Acting Assistant
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(20)

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders, and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

Whereas, The 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" was chosen to reaffirm the importance of maintaining the moral underpinnings that have been fundamental to our society since America's inception; and, //

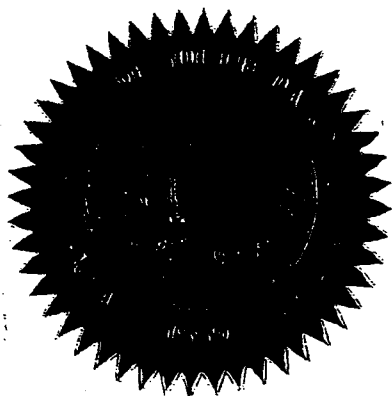
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to participate in local community activities to recognize this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "America, Unite in Prayer"; and //

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

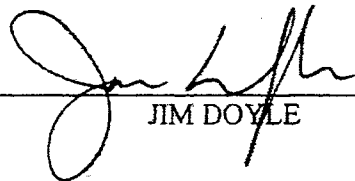
WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008

WISCONSIN DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fourth day of April in the year two thousand eight.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1st day of May 2008.

Bob Riley
Governor Bob Riley

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Office of the Governor

• NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION •

WHEREAS, the religious freedom guaranteed us by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the diversity of faiths practiced in America have made our land a beacon for people who seek freedom to worship according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, Americans of every race, background and creed come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and their own homes to pray or meditate for guidance, wisdom and courage; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona are a diverse people, with a remarkable variety of cultures and religious traditions – "many lands, many people, many faiths" – that blend into ONE ARIZONA; and

WHEREAS, just as we rely on prayer or reflection for courage, hope and renewal in our private lives, so too do we turn to prayer or reflection at times of joy, crisis and tragedy in our public life as a Nation and a State; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer and reflection in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS, we are especially mindful of the heroic men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those serving abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as

• NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION •

and encourage all Arizonans to pray or reflect on their own and give thanks for the rich blessings of our State and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eleventh day of March in the year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:


Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION

In homes and synagogues, in churches and mosques, in their work place and in thousands of other settings across our nation, individuals and families pray. They pray for strength and comfort in the face of challenges, and they pray as an expression of gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Indeed, the quiet reflection that comes with prayer has been a guide and inspiration to Americans since the days of our Founding Fathers.

Today, as America commemorates a National Day of Prayer, I hope all Californians will pause for at least a moment to reflect on their lives and the opportunities and challenges we all share. I also hope the day will not go by without our petitioning God for the safety of our brave troops, their families and the many innocent civilians who find themselves at the battle's front.

May each of us, in our own way and according to our own faith, find the time today to pray for our families and friends and for our communities, state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as a "Day of Prayer" in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 2nd day of April 2008.

Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

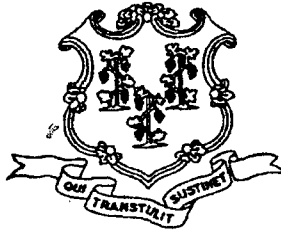
ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State



State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

Whereas, this year's annual observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on May 1, 2008, and the theme of the nationwide celebration is "Prayer: America's Strength and Shield;" and

Whereas, a joint resolution of the United States Congress in 1952 established an annual day for prayer and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

Whereas, the declaration was amended in 1988, by both houses of Congress and President Ronald Reagan, setting a permanent date for the National Day of Prayer to be observed on the first Thursday of the month of May each year; and

Whereas, the annual day of prayer honors the vision and reverence of our Founding Fathers, who, at the first Continental Congress in 1775 called for a Day of Prayer, as they sought guidance and support from God to have the courage and wisdom to build our Nation; and

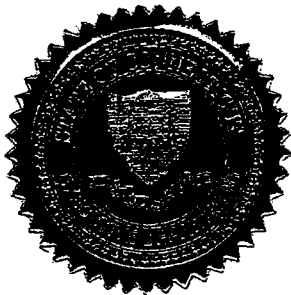
Whereas, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our Nation and to pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has been graciously bestowed upon this Nation since its inception; and

Whereas, as caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

Therefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 1, 2008, as the

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.




Governor



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions; and

WHEREAS: Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 1, 2008, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield;" and

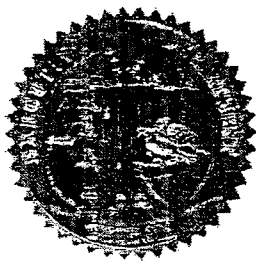
WHEREAS: As our nation is involved in an ongoing conflict in Iraq and in the global war against terrorism, we pray for God's blessing upon our military troops, here and abroad, praying for protection, wisdom and divine guidance as they serve our nation. We furthermore ask that He bless the Iraqi people with peace and wisdom as they continue to journey towards democracy; and

WHEREAS: We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that He watch over them as they watch over us; and

WHEREAS: We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers, many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families; now

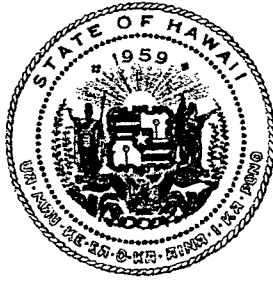
THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
Ecl F. Holcombe
CHIEF OF STAFF



Proclamation

Prayer is important for many people. Throughout history, men and women of all faiths have turned to prayer in times of joy and celebration, as well as times of grief and need. Often accompanied by meditation, prayer is a powerful force to find peace, guidance, comfort and healing, as well as to revere a Higher Power or seek forgiveness for transgressions. It is for good reason America's Founding Fathers enshrined this freedom in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1952 and designated as the first Thursday of May by President Ronald Reagan, the *National Day of Prayer* is observed each year to encourage Americans of all faiths to join together in prayer, according to their own traditions.

On May 1 of this year, millions of Americans will gather for the 57th annual *National Day of Prayer*. Americans across the country will join together in places of worship and other locations to pray for wisdom and guidance, as well as the needs of our communities, nation and world.

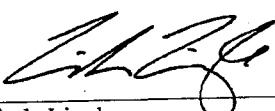
Locally, the Hawai'i National Day of Prayer Team will host a prayer breakfast on Maui and an evening ceremony at the State Capitol. In addition, many other residents will gather in their homes or places of worship to pray.


THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to join together in prayer, each according to his or her own faith, for our state, nation and world.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of May 2008.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i


State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JULY 20, 1775; TO AFFIRM THE NATION'S SPIRITUAL HERITAGE AND TO ENLIST PRAYER FOR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS; AND

WHEREAS, REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS AND IS RECOGNIZED AS A DAY FOR ALL AMERICANS TO PRAY AND REAFFIRM THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED; AND

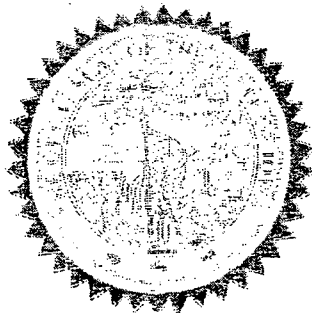
WHEREAS, WE CONTINUE GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MILITARY WHO DEFEND FREEDOM, AND WE HUMBLY ASK FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND PRAY FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS, WE INVITE THE CITIZENS OF IOWA TO GIVE THANKS, EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OR HER OWN FAITH, FOR THE FREEDOMS AND BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED:

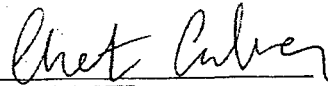
NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 1, 2008 AS A

DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA.




IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 10TH DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND EIGHT.



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 57th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

A Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
March, A.D. 2008

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Kathleen Sebelius

Ron Thornburg
Secretary of State

Joe
Assistant Secretary of State



State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

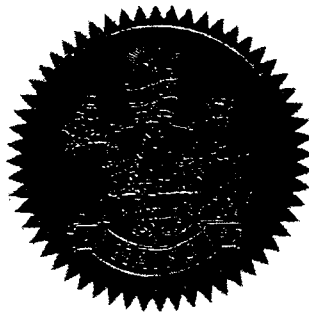
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1952 – and amended in 1988 - declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer,

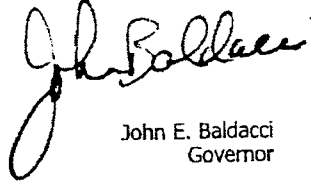
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as

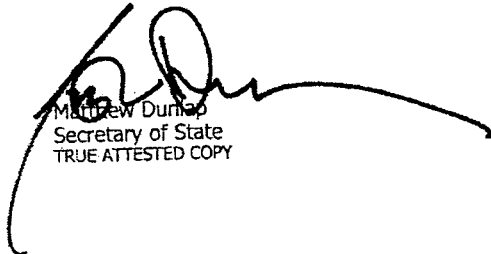
A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this eighteenth day of March in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.


John E. Baldacci
Governor


Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

Day of Prayer

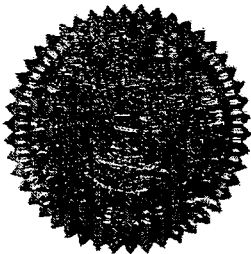
Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

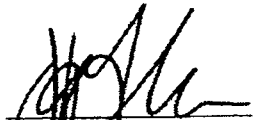
Whereas, In Michigan, we are fortunate to have been blessed with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests, and a people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all our citizens; and,

Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest, and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge their beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we, as a society and a nation, face here at home and throughout the world, and to rededicate ourselves to helping others, strengthening our personal faith, and joining together to spread hope, peace, and love among all people; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, A Day of Prayer in Michigan.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



STATE of MINNESOTA

WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state that enjoys many blessings: natural beauty, abundant resources, strong families, a diversified economy, native peoples, and immigrants from all over the world; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is challenged by the pervasive enemies of humankind: poverty, sickness, hunger, injustice, prejudice, discouragement, greed, crime, and alienation; and

WHEREAS: Minnesotans have always held high standards of excellence, justice, generosity, freedom, equality, and progress, and we have faced these problems with resolve; and

WHEREAS: Our state has been strengthened by the conscience-based actions of people of faith in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS: Many of the challenges we face require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about; and

WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins with these words: "We, the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 1, 2008, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and to seek strength, wisdom, and encouragement to build a better Minnesota for all our people.



Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the State the one hundred forty-ninth.

Tim Pawlenty
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, In 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

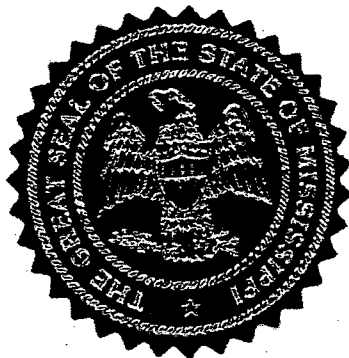
WHEREAS, In these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the fifty-seventh observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 1st, 2008, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-second.

Handwritten signature of Haley Barbour in cursive script.

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

February 12, 2008

Mrs. Pat Kempf
Montana State Coordinator
National Day of Prayer
PO Box 20894
Billings, MT 59104

My Fellow Montanans:

I am pleased to recognize "National Day of Prayer" in the State of Montana.

I encourage Montanans of every faith to acknowledge May 1st, 2008 as the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer.

This event is an opportunity to reflect on the magnificent diversity of religious beliefs across Montana and nation, should serve to unite people of faith from every culture and tradition.

I appreciate your efforts to keep freedom of religion alive nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Schweitzer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 1, 2008

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

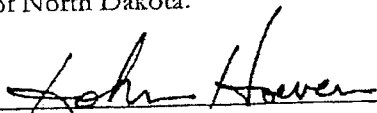
WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is a day to remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, and to recognize those who have returned safely home to their family and friends; we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and the families who mourn their loss; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota state constitution states "We, the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain and establish this constitution."; and

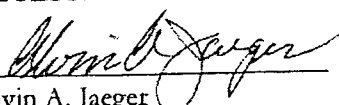
WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, allowing us an opportunity to celebrate our freedoms and America's great tradition of prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.



John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov

*State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor*

A Proclamation

**DAY OF PRAYER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAY 1, 2008**

WHEREAS, Prayer is an important part of the lives of many citizens; and

WHEREAS, In times of uncertainty, people often use prayer as a way to find both strength and courage in themselves and in the world around them; and

WHEREAS, In times of prosperity, people often use prayer as a means to give thanks for their good fortune and freedoms; and

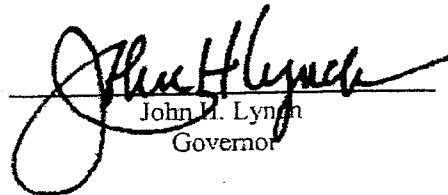
WHEREAS, For many, prayer provides solace and a way to connect spiritually and determine those things that are important in our lives; and

WHEREAS, Since 1952, the nation has celebrated the National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim MAY 1, 2008 as DAY OF PRAYER in New Hampshire.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord, this 20th day of March, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and eight, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-two.


John H. Lynch
Governor



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the faith of our founding fathers has played a significant role in American history, long inspiring us to seek unity through such traditions as days of prayer and reflection; and

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to seek wisdom as they formed a nation, praying has remained as important a part of the lives of many Americans as during the early days of our Country's rise to greatness; and

Whereas, for more than 225 years, the call to prayer has been echoed throughout history by such leaders as President Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," and President Truman, who in 1952 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer, and President Ronald Reagan, who in 1988 signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, this year's observance gives us cause to reflect upon the need to reaffirm our faith as we look for guidance and protection of America and its people, keeping in mind recent domestic and global events that present challenges; and

Whereas, in considering the many benefits of life in this great nation, we are thankful for the rewards that democracy brings and the values we hold highest - these cherished principles continue to serve as the foundation of our union, drawing us together for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer, which will be observed in churches, synagogues, statehouses, halls of government, other public venues - and within our homes - by people across America; and

Whereas, during these uncertain times, it is fitting that all New Yorkers join to honor the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness based upon an enduring belief in religious freedom and all freedoms upon which this nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as a

Day of Prayer and Reflection

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth
day of April in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor



Ted Strickland
Governor of said State
hereby officially recognizes

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
2008

This tradition has been observed in the United States for more than two centuries in recognition of the role of faith and prayer in our lives, in our heritage, and in our common humanity.

In 1775, the Continental Congress called for colonists to pray for wisdom in forming a new country. In 1863, President Lincoln asked for prayers to help heal a splintered nation. In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution designating one day each year as the National Day of Prayer, and in 1988 the date of the National Day of Prayer was permanently fixed as the first Thursday in May.

Through prayer we may seek strength and gain comfort in the face of challenge. Through prayer we may give thanks and seek guidance in the face of opportunity. As we observe the National Day of Prayer, I encourage Ohioans to let their faith guide them as they open their hearts and minds for reflection and prayer.



ON THIS FIRST DAY OF MAY,
TWO THOUSAND EIGHT.

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland
Governor

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

DAY OF PRAYER
May 1, 2008

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideals of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom, and assistance; and

WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, guidance, and protection for our families, government leaders, civil servants, and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty, and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man, and the right to individual religious expression; and

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the adversity that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right as well as the progressive individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of age, race, gender, or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that this nation uphold the fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to seek personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget, nor neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation, and personal reflection.

THEREFORE, In recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought, or giving thanks.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this thirteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-second.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

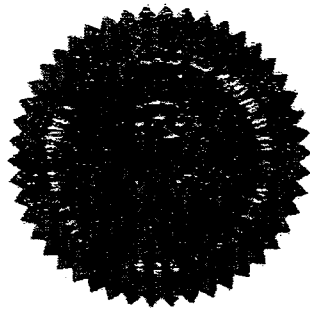
May 1, 2008

as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 1st day of May 2008.



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the theme of the 2008 National Day of Prayer, "Prayer, America's Strength and Shield" serves to remind us... In the State of Tennessee we join together to acknowledge our Creator and to ask for wisdom, knowledge and understanding for our government, armed forces and our families. We honor God's blessings upon the state of Tennessee and we pledge to seek guidance for strength to meet the challenges we face. As a state, we need unity in order to build together and protect those in need; and

WHEREAS, a united prayer brings focus as one voice. On this day we proclaim that we, as citizens will pray for our governmental leaders, our armed forces, our families and this great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, had called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 11th day of March, 2008.

Governor

Secretary of State



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Since the beginning of our land, men and women have bowed their heads in prayer. From families gathered around the dinner table to Presidents kneeling in the Oval Office, prayers have been offered from every generation of Americans. Prayer truly has been *America's Strength and Shield*.

In a nation that revels in freedom of speech, there is no greater speech than that between Americans and their creator. Early in American history, faced with the responsibility and opportunity to form a new nation, our leaders stepped forward and asked the colonies to join in praying and seeking wisdom. The admission by great men for the need of the prayers of their fellow countrymen is what set America apart – *as a city on a hill*.

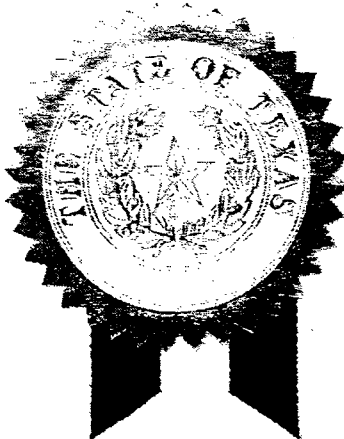
The wisdom granted all those years ago has lit the way for Americans of all faiths to offer prayers for today's leaders. While times have changed and the challenges seem different, the leaders of this great nation once again stand before the people and ask that we join in prayer.

Our faith and the ability to pray freely are the cornerstones of our nation and have greatly shaped the Lone Star State. God has truly blessed us and shed His grace on this great land. These are blessings that we must not take lightly. It is our responsibility to treasure, protect and strengthen the foundations so that future generations will be allowed to bow their heads in prayer and exercise their right to free speech.

As our nation comes together for this commemoration, let us be mindful of the privilege we have to pray. Let it spur us to come together in prayer, acknowledging our blessings, displaying our trust and offering our gratitude.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008,

A Day of Prayer



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
14th day of April, 2008.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were frequently united in observance of prayer; and

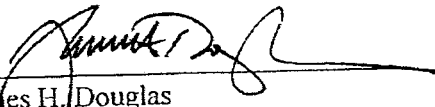
WHEREAS, Vermonters may wish to join in observance of the National Day of Prayer in the hope that problems, both within our state and nation and around the world may be peacefully resolved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor, do hereby proclaim **May 1, 2008**, as a
DAY OF PRAYER

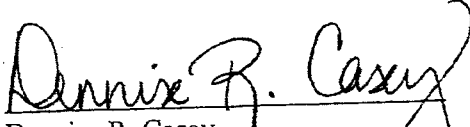
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State
of Vermont this 19th day of March, A.D. 2008.




James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:


Dennise R. Casey
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

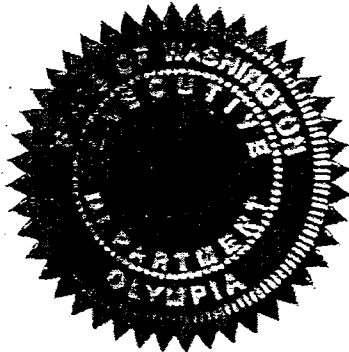
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as the

Day of Prayer

in Washington State, in keeping with the wishes of Congress, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 28th day of January, 2008

Christine Gregoire
Governor Christine O. Gregoire



Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and benevolent God upon our government and people; and,

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard and who strongly desire to preserve their state's heritage; and,

Whereas, joining in common prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and,

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with a unified expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention in the preservation and continuation of the strong religious principles upon which our nation and our state have been established;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 1, 2008*, as:

A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join in a national effort to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight, and in the One Hundred Forty-fifth year of the State.




Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:

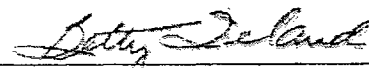

Betty Ireland
Secretary of State

EXHIBIT 15



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance since our Nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort, and protection where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings which God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, prayer has comforted us in times of sorrow, and given us strength and hope for the future. We ask God to keep His hand upon us and bless the great State of Florida and the United States of America; and

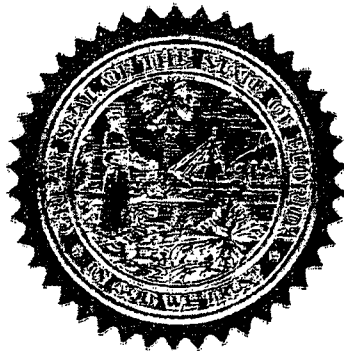
WHEREAS, we continue to give thanks for the men and women of the military that are defending our freedom and we humbly ask God for their protection. We pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

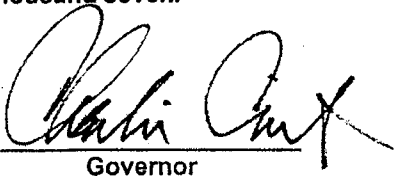
WHEREAS, this year is the 56th anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme this year is, "America, Unite in Prayer," based on Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..."; and

WHEREAS, across our nation and state on May 3rd Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate repentance and renewal and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 3, 2007 as the *National Day of Prayer*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 24th day of April, in the year two thousand seven.


Governor





Proclamation

Prayer is an important rite for many of Hawai'i's people. Throughout history, men and women of all faiths have turned to prayer in times of joy and celebration, as well as times of grief and need. Often accompanied by meditation, prayer is a powerful force to find peace, guidance, comfort and healing, as well as to revere a Higher Power or seek forgiveness for transgressions. It is for good reason America's Founding Fathers enshrined this freedom in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1952 and designated as the first Thursday of May by President Ronald Reagan, the *National Day of Prayer* is observed each year to encourage Americans to join together in prayer, according to their own traditions.

On May 3 of this year, millions of Americans will gather for the 56th annual *National Day of Prayer*, themed "America Unite in Prayer" after the verse found in II Chronicles 7:14. Americans across the country will gather in places of worship and other locations to pray for wisdom and guidance, as well as the needs of our communities, nation and world.


Locally, the Hawai'i National Day of Prayer Team will host formal prayer ceremonies at the Kapolei District Park and the State Capitol, and many other residents will gather in their homes or places of worship to pray.


THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to join together in prayer, each according to his or her own faith, for our state, nation and world.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of April 2007.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, representing many nations and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God with needs both great and small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that Almighty Being, Who rules over the universe, Who presides in the councils of the nations, and Whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." – George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the Almighty disposer of events – to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under Whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's God." – William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray – to really pray." – Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the Divine Being." – Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." – Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer, Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "America, Unite in Prayer," a reaffirmation of the biblical exhortation in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "if My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, to be

DAY OF PRAYER

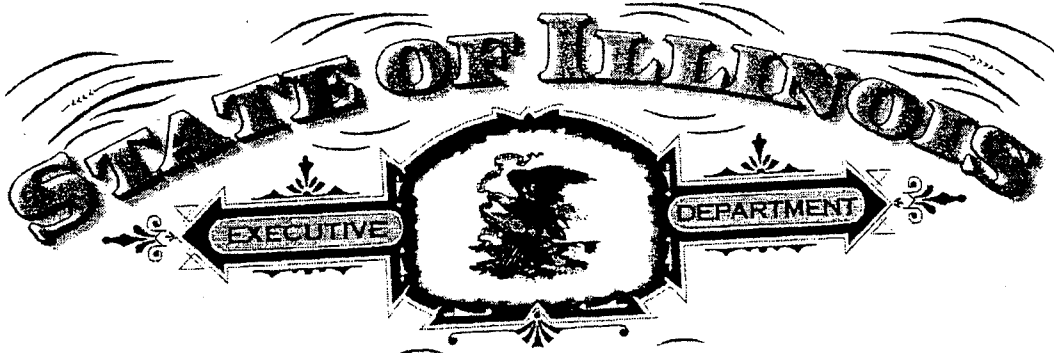
in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 13th day of February in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty first and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred seventeenth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF ILLINOIS

 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

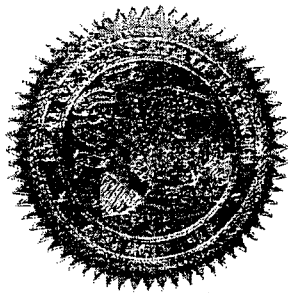
Proclamation

WHEREAS, in times of peril both at home and abroad, many American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and
 WHEREAS, millions of men and women across the nation gratefully continue the tradition of prayer in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship across our country; and
 WHEREAS, established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and
 WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens' freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment. Americans treasure their religious freedom, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries; and
 WHEREAS, the theme for the National Day of Prayer 2007 is "America, United in Prayer," inspired by the passage found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land";

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this TWENTY-SECOND day of MARCH, in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
SEVEN, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and EIGHTY-NINTH



Debra White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR

5

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

To ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

- WHEREAS, prayer to the Almighty God is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit and has aided many in times where support and guidance are needed; and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity which our nation and state enjoy and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception; and
- WHEREAS, the Day of Prayer is a time set aside for Americans to pray to their heavenly Father and to reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Indiana and the United States of America can and will benefit from prayer by its faithful and prayerful residents; and
- WHEREAS, this year's theme, "America Unite in Prayer," is inspired by the exhortation found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV, "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
- WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer provides a powerful opportunity for people to humble themselves before the Almighty to seek the "redeeming and preserving grace" of which Lincoln so eloquently spoke in asking God to "shed His grace" on us; and
- WHEREAS, across our land on May 3rd, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, it seems fitting to acknowledge these benefits as we assemble to give thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed since America's founding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 5th day of February, 2007.

M E Daniels, Jr.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

Todd Rokita

ATTEST: Todd Rokita
Secretary of State

6


State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

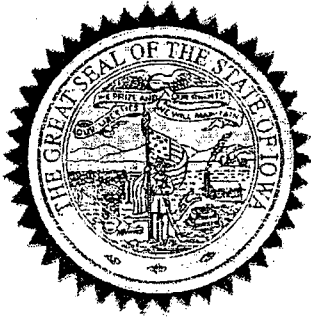
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JULY 20, 1775; TO AFFIRM THE NATION'S SPIRITUAL HERITAGE AND TO ENLIST PRAYER FOR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS; AND
- WHEREAS,** REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS AND IS RECOGNIZED AS A DAY FOR ALL AMERICANS TO PRAY AND REAFFIRM THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED; AND
- WHEREAS,** WE CONTINUE GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MILITARY WHO DEFEND FREEDOM, AND WE HUMBL Y ASK FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND PRAY FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS 'AMERICA, UNITE IN PRAYER' INSPIRED BY THE EXHORTATION FOUND IN II CHRONICLES 7:14 "IF MY PEOPLE... WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY:

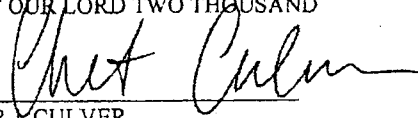
NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 3, 2007 AS A

DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SEVEN.



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE

Proclamation

by

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance, strength and inspiration since our nation's founding; and
- WHEREAS, Since the Continental Congress' first declaration of a day of prayer in 1775, the people of the United States and this great Commonwealth have regularly gathered to pray for our nation, its people and our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky and its citizens serve as an illustration of the abundance of blessings God will bestow upon those who pray earnestly to Him; and
- WHEREAS, It is an honor and a privilege to join the nation in petitioning to God for wisdom, blessings and protection of our President, our troops and local and state officials; and
- WHEREAS, We continue to give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women in the military, and ask that God will grant them courage and grace as they bravely defend freedom throughout the world, as well as comfort their families; and
- WHEREAS, We humbly ask God to safeguard Kentucky's people and continue to guide our Commonwealth in the direction of His will; and
- WHEREAS, The theme of the 56th National Day of Prayer, "America, Unite in Prayer," which is based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in Kentucky, and call upon all citizens of the Commonwealth to join with other Americans throughout the nation in venues of prayer, each according to his or her own faith, giving thanks for the freedoms and blessings of God's grace and asking for God's continued guidance and protection.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 15th day of March, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seven and in the 215th year of the Commonwealth.

Ernie Fletcher
ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

Trey Grayson
Trey Grayson
Secretary of State

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



A PROCLAMATION



BY HIS EXCELLENCY
GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

Whereas Established in 1952 by Congress, the National Day of Prayer has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

Whereas Each American has the freedom to worship and pray as he or she desires; and

Whereas This day provides all Massachusetts citizens the opportunity to join together in prayer to give thanks for our blessings, to ask for healing, to ask God to guide our leaders and to bring peace to our nation and the world; and

Whereas "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land," is the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, inspired by 2 Chronicles 7:14,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 3rd, 2007, to be

MASSACHUSETTS DAY OF PRAYER

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirtieth.

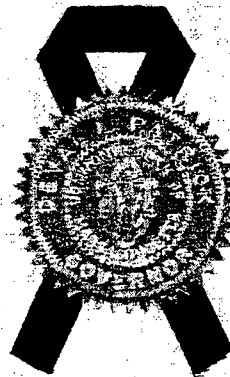
By His Excellency

Handwritten signature of Deval L. Patrick in black ink.

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor of the Commonwealth

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in black ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

10

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made laws the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and

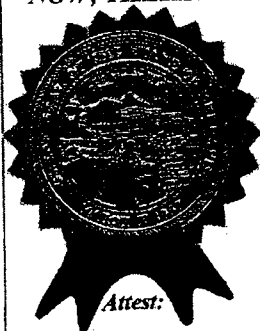
WHEREAS, This year marks the 56th Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "America, United in Prayer" reflecting the words in II Chronicles 7:14 to unite God's people in prayer and repentance for healing of our land.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, the 3rd day of May, 2007, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seven.



Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 3, 2007, marks the 56th Annual National Day of Prayer with this year's theme, "Those who honor me I will honor" 1 Samuel 2:30;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD J. CODEY, Acting Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

MAY 3, 2007
AS
A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this third day of May in the year two thousand seven, the two hundred thirty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

ACTING GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR:

NINA MITCHELL WELLS
SECRETARY OF STATE

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Boletín
Administrativo
Núm.: P-2007-001

*Proclama
del Gobernador
del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico*

Día de la Oración

POR CUANTO: El Gobierno del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico celebra el "Día de la Oración" en afirmación de la política pública que salvaguarda los principios y valores del pueblo de Puerto Rico y el mundo;

POR CUANTO: El "Día de la Oración" provee la ocasión propicia para reconocer la ingente misión de servicio de las personas, así como de las diversas entidades públicas y privadas que colaboran en la educación espiritual, la reflexión y la meditación necesarias para la transformación de los seres humanos en constructores de una cultura de paz y bien;

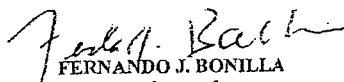
POR CUANTO: Esta conmemoración constituye la reafirmación de las virtudes humanas que promueven el fortalecimiento de la unidad familiar y la convivencia armoniosa para la consecución de las metas individuales y colectivas en Puerto Rico;

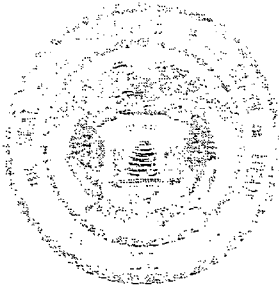
POR TANTO : YO, ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ, Gobernador del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, en virtud de la autoridad que me confieren la Constitución y las Leyes de Puerto Rico, proclamo el 5 de mayo de 2007, **DÍA DE LA ORACIÓN**. Al así hacerlo, exhorto al pueblo de Puerto Rico, a las entidades públicas y privadas, e igualmente, a los medios de comunicación, a la participación en las actividades alusivas a esta conmemoración de interés público.

EN TESTIMONIO DE LO CUAL, firmo la presente y hago estampar en ella el Gran Sello del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, en la Ciudad de San Juan, hoy, 8 de febrero de 2007.


ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ

Promulgada de acuerdo con la Ley, hoy, 8 de febrero de 2007.


FERNANDO J. BONILLA
Secretario de Estado



Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.

2007

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1783, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the Congress of the United States in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and,

Whereas, the theme for this year's celebration is "America, Unite in Prayer," inspired by 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 3, 2007, as

National Day of Prayer

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout our Commonwealth and nation; and

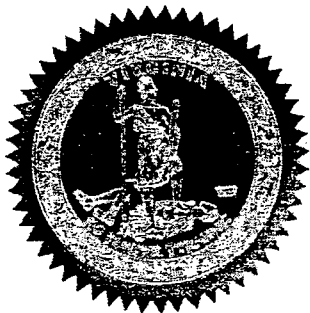
WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775 and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this day of prayer, *America, Unite in Prayer*, comes from the scripture 2 Chronicles, which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Day of Prayer is recognized by Virginians and Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer for our loved ones and for our enemies, and to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize May 3, 2007, as DAY OF PRAYER in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, prayer is a vital part of our heritage as one nation under God;
and

WHEREAS, in celebrating our fundamental religious freedom to pray, the
first Thursday in May in each year has been set aside as a National Day of Prayer;
and

WHEREAS, on this day, people of the United States may turn to God in
prayer, and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "America Unite in Prayer" inspired
by the exhortation found in second Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called
by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from
their wicked way, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their
land."

NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State
of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the
Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 17th day of April,
2007.



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this Nation was founded. We need not shrink as Americans from asking for divine assistance in our continuing efforts to relieve human suffering at home and abroad, to reduce hatred, violence, and abuse, and to restore families across our land; and

WHEREAS: Throughout the history of our Nation, our government has welcomed divine guidance in its work, while respecting the rich and varied faiths of its citizens. From patriots and presidents to advocates for justice, our history reflects the strong presence of prayer in American life; and

WHEREAS: America was founded on the principles of religious faith and freedom. By following our own beliefs while respecting the convictions of others, we can strengthen our people and build upon our promise as a State. As Micah reminds us, we must strive "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly" before God; and

WHEREAS: This year marks the 56th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer; the theme for this celebration is "America, Unite in Prayer"; and

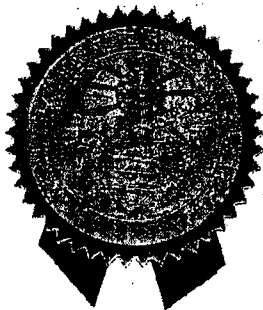
WHEREAS: On May 3, Americans are invited to join in prayer for our Nation and our States, to acknowledge God, to give thanks for the many blessings we have received, to recognize the human need for morality, and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and our people;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all citizens to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to pray with diligence and humility in the days and years ahead.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2007.





MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR



CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION

During an evening on one of the darkest days of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came home to be with his family. Asleep from an exhausting day where he helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King was awakened by a mysterious phone call that threatened his life. Burdened with great worry about his family's safety and the struggle for justice, Dr. King bowed and prayed aloud: "Lord, I am taking a stand for what I believe is right. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I have nothing left. I have come to the point where I can't face it alone."

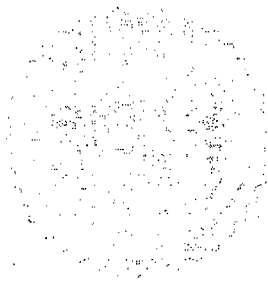
According to Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, that prayer gave him peace and became a "critical turning point" in the fight for freedom. Dr. King said that during his prayer, he felt God's presence and sensed a voice saying to him to "stand up for righteousness; stand up for truth." Faced with a seemingly hopeless situation, the prayer renewed Dr. King's resolve to lead the noble cause that transformed our nation.

Prayer is important to our national culture and to Americans of different faiths. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on the blessings and challenges that have touched our lives and to seek God's continued wisdom. Perhaps most importantly, the power of prayer sustains us during times of trouble and deep uncertainty, giving us an opportunity to commune with our Maker and refreshing our spirit to carry on, as it did for Dr. King.

On May 3, in concert with this year's national theme of "America, Unite in Prayer," I encourage all Californians, each according to his or her own faith, to come together and pray for our families, communities and state. In addition, because of the continuing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, I also encourage all Californians to pray for the welfare of our brave service members who are in harm's way. Let us pray that they be resilient in the face of danger and that they may come home safely into the arms of their loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as a "Day of Prayer" in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 21st day of March 2007.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

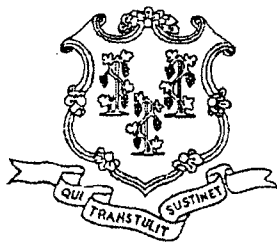
Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

Debra Bowen
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

Whereas, May 3, 2007 marks the 56th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme of this year's nationwide celebration is "America, Unite in Prayer;" and

Whereas, in 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress, and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

Whereas, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our Nation and to pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has graciously been bestowed upon this Nation since its inception; and

Whereas, as caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

Therefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 3, 2007, as the

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.

Handwritten signature of M. Jodi Rell in cursive script.
Governor

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STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
A DAY OF PRAYER

Whereas, it is noteworthy that at our country's inception, there was a clear mandate to protect religious freedom and to create an atmosphere where prayer in the public square was accepted and embraced; and

Whereas, this year's National Day of Prayer theme, "America, Unite in Prayer" brings attention to the importance of protecting the cherished rights and freedoms of all Americans to gather and worship and to pray according to the dictates of their conscience; and

Whereas, in his first inaugural address, George Washington said, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defeat, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States;" and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, Day of Prayer observances are planned in all 50 states and territories, a tradition established in 1952 by an act of Congress.

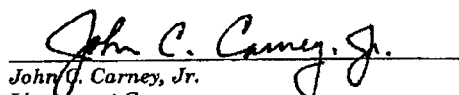
Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor,
and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare May 3, 2007

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Delaware, and invite Delawareans to gather together on this day in their homes, churches and meeting places to pray in their own way for the unity of all mankind, wisdom and favor for our leaders, peace and joy for our nation, and health and prosperity for all Americans.




Ruth Ann Minner
Governor


John C. Carney, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor

07.271
Number

20



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA**

WHEREAS: Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions; and

WHEREAS: Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 3, 2007, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, "America, Honor God;" and

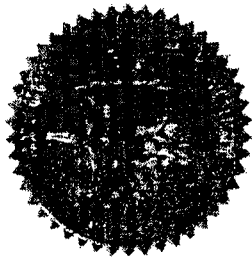
WHEREAS: As our nation is involved in an ongoing conflict in Iraq and in the global war against terrorism, we pray for God's blessing upon our military troops, here and abroad, praying for protection, wisdom and divine guidance as they serve our nation. We furthermore ask that He bless the Iraqi people with peace and wisdom as they continue to journey towards democracy; and

WHEREAS: We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that He watch over them as they watch over us; and

WHEREAS: We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers, many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seven.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Ed F. Holcomb
CHIEF OF STAFF



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri
Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 56th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 3, 2007, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Missouri and its people will continue to be blessed and protected from those who threaten democracy; and

WHEREAS, the scripture states that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble"; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "America, Unite in Prayer!"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge we are all God's handiwork and we should feel free to call upon Him in prayer;


NOW THEREFORE, I, Matt Blunt, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as

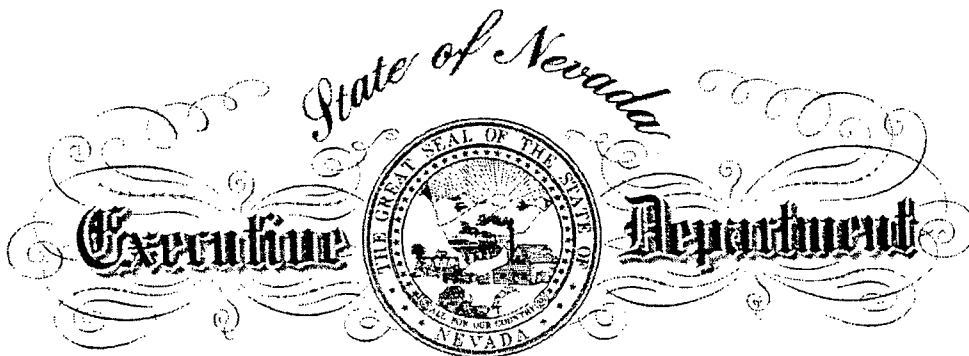
MISSOURI DAY OF PRAYER

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 3rd day of May, 2007.




Governor

Attest: 
Secretary of State



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada will join together with the entire country on May 3, 2007, to celebrate the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald W. Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May every year; and

WHEREAS, each year, the President of the United States signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day, and in 2005, state governors and the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2007 National Day of Prayer is "America, Unite in Prayer". The theme for Nevada is "Unite in Prayer; Connect to Serve"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada recognizes this very special day, and joins with Americans across the nation in support of the National Day of Prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as

A DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof. I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 21st day of February, 2007.

Jim Gibbons
Governor

By the Governor:

Secretary of State

By _____ Deputy

09-1120

23



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 101-307, officially established an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans, as it encompasses the backgrounds of all citizens and values the many faiths that they hold; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders prayed for wisdom while forming this nation and continue to look for spiritual guidance in confronting the many challenges of our day; and

WHEREAS, the United States, a country that was established by people from all regions of the globe, rely upon our religious liberty in order to preserve the individuality and diversity that gives our nation its unique richness and strength of character; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is, "America, Unite in Prayer";

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as:

"A Day of Prayer in New Mexico"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

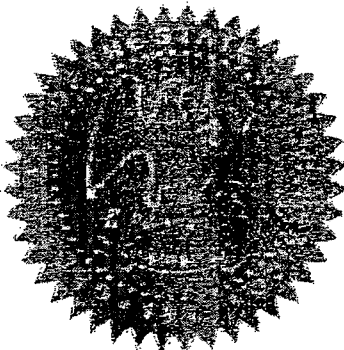
Attest:

Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

*Done at the Executive Office this
30th day of March, 2007.*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico*

Bill Richardson
Governor



State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2007

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 3, 2007, marks the 56th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, as mandated by both Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, it is good that we acknowledge that we are all God's handiwork and that it is appropriate to call upon Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, "America, Unite in Prayer" is the theme for the 2007 National Day of Prayer; ||

NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as a "DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind, and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation.

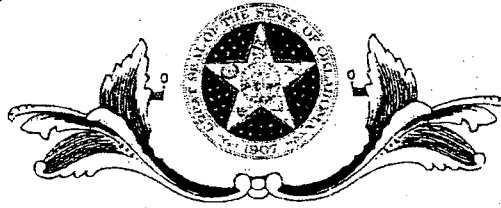


Mike Easley
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

25

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Duplicate

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition and important occasion first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and Americans since the days of our founders have shared our dependence on God, faith and prayer while insisting on religious freedom; and

Whereas, it is eminently fitting and proper that we in Oklahoma, especially in our Centennial Year, observe a day when all of us in our communities may acknowledge our blessings, and express gratitude for them while recognizing our need for the strengthening of spiritual and moral values in our land; and

Whereas, the 2007 theme for the National Day of Prayer is "America, Unite in Prayer". Given the tragic disasters and the challenging times which test our country's will and faith, it is appropriate to turn to God for faith, repentance, support, healing, protection and guidance in order that we may honor God, build stronger communities of character based on His ways and have great hope for the future; and

Whereas, world events and our great need at this time, make this a critical year for prayer to Almighty God for ourselves, our communities and our leaders; and

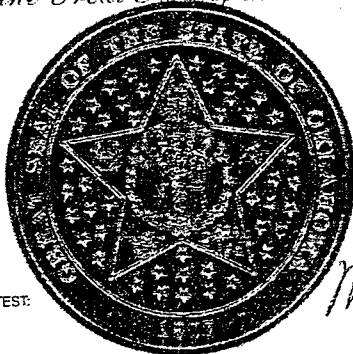
Whereas, prayer reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in troubled and difficult times;

*Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim
May 3, 2007, as*

"A Day of Prayer"

in the State of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*



ATTEST:

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma
City, this 10th day of April, in the
Year of Our Lord two thousand and seven,
and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-ninth
year.*

M. Susan Lovejoy

SECRETARY OF STATE

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Brad Henry 26

GOVERNOR

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

Whereas, The 2007 theme, "America, Unite in Prayer" was chosen to reaffirm the importance of maintaining the moral underpinnings that have been fundamental to our society since America's inception; and,

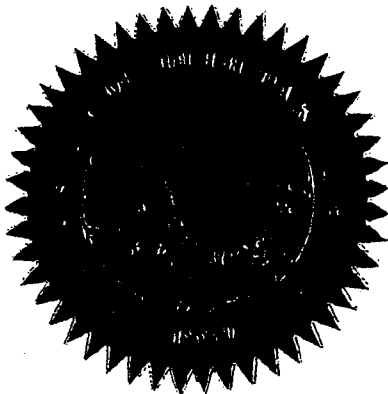
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to participate in local community activities to recognize this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, The theme of 2007 National Day of Prayer, "America, Unite in Prayer" serves to remind us... In the State of Tennessee we join together to acknowledge our Creator and to ask for wisdom, knowledge and understanding for our government, armed forces and our families. We honor God's blessings upon the state of Tennessee and we pledge to seek guidance for strength to meet the challenges we face. As a state, we need unity in order to build together and protect those in need; and

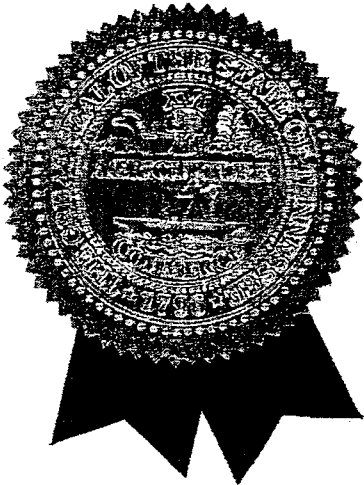
WHEREAS, A United prayer brings focus as one voice. On this day we proclaim that we, as citizens will pray for our governmental leaders, our armed forces, our families and this great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, had called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 3rd, 2007 as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 9th day of March, 2007.

Governor

Secretary of State

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STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

President Abraham Lincoln, recognizing his human frailties, once said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." In 1863, following the lead of our founding fathers, Lincoln proclaimed a day of national fasting and prayer, saying "it behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray to the God that made us." His declaration eventually led to the 1952 signing of a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress by President Harry Truman establishing an annual national day of prayer.

Today, Americans continue in the tradition of our forefathers by acknowledging the power of prayer in our lives. The freedom to practice our faith and to pray freely are cornerstones of our civilization and our way of life, cornerstones that for many have sustained successes and furthered the spiritual strength that have nurtured our tomorrows, that have played a formidable role in establishing the Texas of today.

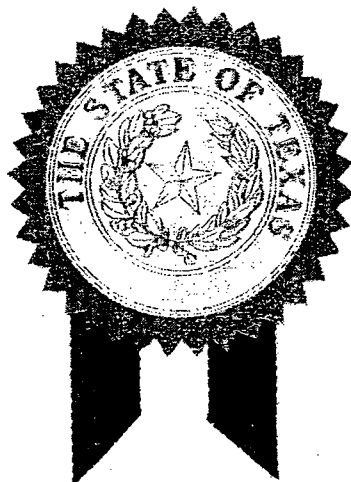
The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer is "America Unite in Prayer." This message of unity reminds us that, together, our nation can continue to flourish as our founders hoped it would when they established its framework. This observance encourages people across our communities, state and country to come together to pray for our families, elected officials and for the spiritual renewal of our country.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim
May 3, 2007,

A Day of Prayer

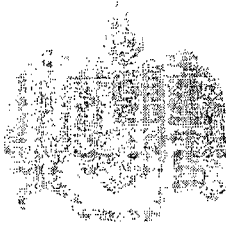
in Texas, and urge the appropriate
recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this
14th day of December, 2006.



Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

29



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

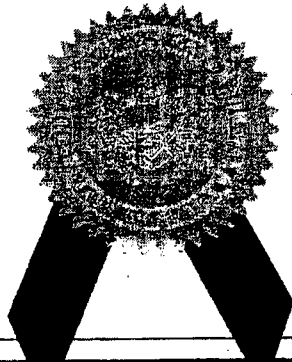
WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 55th annual National Day of Prayer, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this symbolic event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 2nd day of April 2007.

Bob R. Riley
Governor Bob Riley

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by *Sarah Palin, Governor*

The Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer in 1775. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln established a proclamation for a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer." A joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman in 1952, declared an annual, national day of prayer. And in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

Following the devastating event the United States experienced on September 11, 2001, President Bush reminded us that the Congress, through Public Law 100-307, called on citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing this day annually.

As Governor, I recognize that the people of Alaska represent a variety of cultural and religious traditions. I believe that each community of faith warrants the recognition and respect of others.

It is not the intent of this proclamation to promote a particular religion, but rather to encourage thoughtful reflection on the condition of our state and country and to honor our freedom of religious expression whether that is prayer, alms giving, fasting, peace activism, meditation, promotion of social justice, or another form of contemplative action.

Let us not forget that the liberty and freedoms we enjoy are promoted and protected by the willingness, dedication, and sacrifice of our country's military servicemen and women.

On May 3, 2007, I urge you to join fellow Americans across racial, political, and religious boundaries to observe the National Day of Prayer within your respective communities and faith traditions.

May we be thankful for our blessings, reflect on the many needs of our state and nation, treat our neighbors with dignity and respect, and seek moral and spiritual renewal through the religious or spiritual expression which most closely aligns with who we are as individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as:

National Day of Prayer

in Alaska and encourage Alaskans to keep the health, well-being, prosperity, and peace of our state, nation, and world in mind on this day.

Dated: April 2, 2007



A handwritten signature of Sarah Palin in black ink.

Sarah Palin, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Office of the Governor

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

WHEREAS, the religious freedom guaranteed us by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the diversity of faiths practiced in America have made our land a beacon for people who seek freedom to worship according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, Americans of every race, background and creed come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and their own homes to pray or meditate for guidance, wisdom and courage; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona are a diverse people, with a remarkable variety of cultures and religious traditions - "many lands, many people, many faiths" - that blend into ONE ARIZONA; and

WHEREAS, just as we rely on prayer or reflection for courage, hope and renewal in our private lives, so too do we turn to prayer or reflection at times of joy, crisis and tragedy in our public life as a Nation and a State; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer and reflection in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS, we are especially mindful of the heroic men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those serving abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby join with the President of the United States and my fellow Governors to proclaim May 3, 2007 as a

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

and encourage all Arizonans to pray or reflect on their own and give thanks for the rich blessings of our State and our Nation.

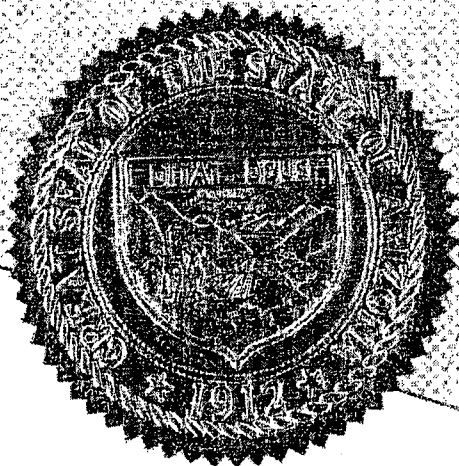
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Janet Napolitano
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this sixth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Seven.

ATTEST

Janice K. Brewer
Secretary of State



STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 56th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

A Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 6th day of
February, A.D. 2007

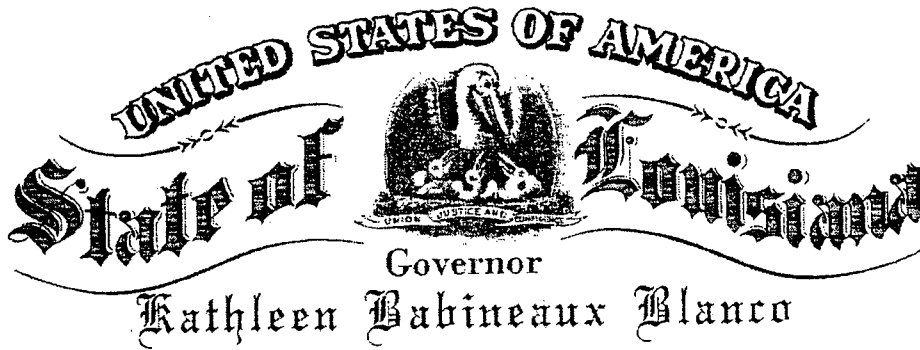
BY THE GOVERNOR:

Kathleen Sebelius

Ron Thorn
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State





Proclamation

- WHEREAS, in the State of Louisiana we join together to acknowledge our Creator and to ask for wisdom, knowledge and understanding for our government, our men and women in the Louisiana National Guard and other reserve components of the armed forces, and our families; and
- WHEREAS, we honor God's blessings upon Louisiana and we pledge to seek guidance for strength to meet the challenges we face; and
- WHEREAS, as a state, we need unity in order to build together and protect those in need; and
- WHEREAS, a united prayer brings focus as one voice, and on this day we proclaim that we will pray for our governmental leaders, the men and women in the Louisiana National Guard and other reserve components of the armed forces, our families, and the great State of Louisiana.

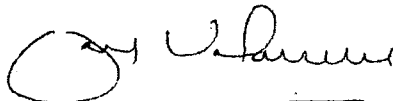
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as

DAY OF PRAYER

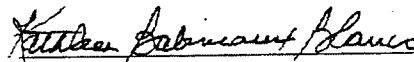
in the State of Louisiana. I ask the citizens of Louisiana to give thanks, according to his or her own faith, for the grace that God has shed upon our state.



Attest By
The Governor


Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 28th day of March
A. D., 2007


Governor of Louisiana

State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

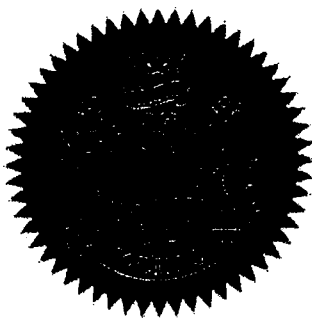
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1952 – and amended in 1988 - declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer,

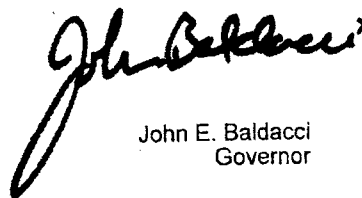
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007 as

A DAY OF PRAYER

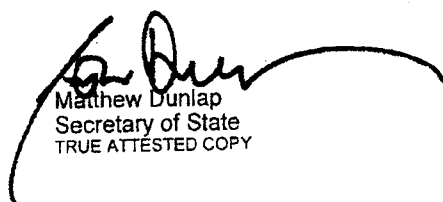
throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-second day of February in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

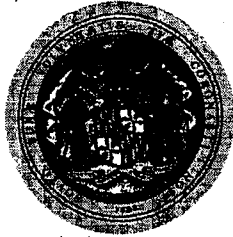


John E. Baldacci
Governor



Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

The State of Maryland



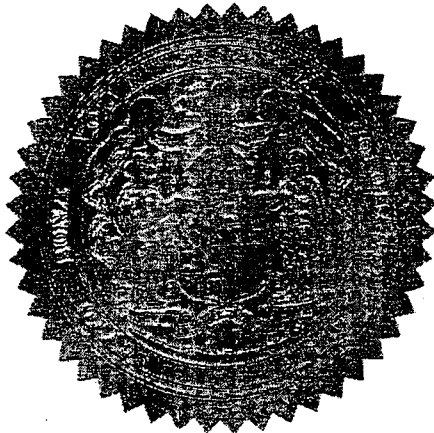
Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 3, 2007

- WHEREAS,** *Prayer can play a valuable and productive role in strengthening bonds of understanding, tolerance, friendship and unity among all people; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The power of prayer has always been a part of our country's character and continues to give us strength, and sustain us in times of joy and challenge; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Marylanders cherish our heritage of religious freedom and throughout our state and nation on May 3, 2007 events will take place to honor the National Day of Prayer; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland is pleased to join in observing the first Thursday of every May as a National Day of Prayer and invite our citizens to join in this day of ceremonies, and activities.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim
MAY 3, 2007 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Maryland.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
the 3rd day of May
Two Thousand and seven

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert Beon
Lt. Governor

Dennis Schaeffer
Secretary of State

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

A Day of Prayer

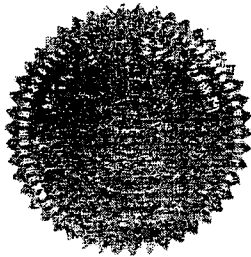
Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

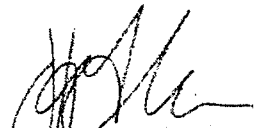
Whereas, In Michigan we are fortunate to have been blessed with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests and a people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all our citizens; and,

Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest, and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge their beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we, as a society and a nation, face here at home and throughout the world and to rededicate ourselves to helping others, strengthening our personal faith, and joining together to spread hope, peace, and love among all people; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, A Day of Prayer in Michigan.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state that enjoys so many blessings: natural beauty, abundant resources, strong families, a diversified economy, native peoples, and immigrants from all over the world; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is challenged by the pervasive enemies of humankind: poverty, sickness, hunger, injustice, prejudice, discouragement, greed, crime, and alienation; and

WHEREAS: Minnesotans have always had high standards of excellence, justice, generosity, freedom, equality, and progress and have faced their problems with resolve; and

WHEREAS: We know our state has been strengthened by the conscience-based actions of people of faith in all walks of life; and

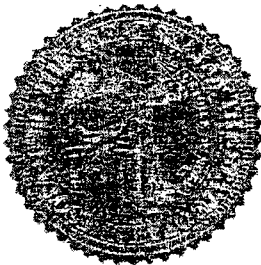
WHEREAS: We know many of the challenges we face require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about; and

WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins with these words, "We the people of the state of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 3, 2007, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and to seek strength, wisdom and encouragement to build a better Minnesota for all our people.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the State the one hundred forty-eighth.

[Handwritten signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE

[Handwritten signature]

GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, In 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, In these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the fifty-sixth observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 3rd, 2007, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the fifth day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Haley Barbour".

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

February 7, 2007

Mrs. James C Dobson
PO Box 15616
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5656

Dear Mrs. Dobson:

Thank you for writing about National Day of Prayer.

As you know from my response last year, I do not issue proclamations for days, weeks, or months.

I appreciate your efforts to educate the public about the importance of prayer. I am, however, pleased to let you know the Governor's Prayer Breakfast for Montana is scheduled for March 3rd, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Brian Schweitzer, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

*State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor*

A Proclamation

**DAY OF PRAYER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAY 3, 2007**

WHEREAS, Prayer is an important part of the lives of many citizens; and

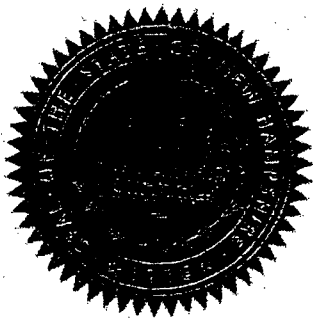
WHEREAS, In times of uncertainty, people often use prayer as a way to find both strength and courage in themselves and in the world around them; and

WHEREAS, In times of prosperity, people often use prayer as a means to give thanks for their good fortune and freedoms; and

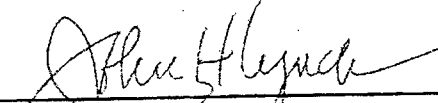
WHEREAS, For many, prayer provides solace and a way to connect spiritually and determine those things that are important in our lives; and

WHEREAS, Since 1952, the nation has celebrated the National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **May 3, 2007** as **Day of Prayer** in New Hampshire.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord, this 10th day of April, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and seven, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-one.



John H. Lynch
Governor



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 3, 2007

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

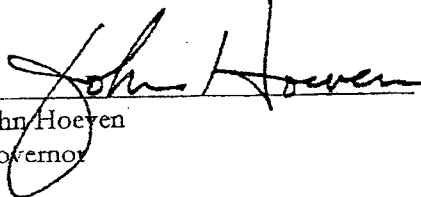
WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and


WHEREAS, a day of prayer is a day to remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, and to recognize those who have returned safely home to their family and friends; we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and the families who mourn their loss; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, allowing us an opportunity to celebrate our freedoms and America's great tradition of prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov



Ted Strickland
Governor of said State
hereby officially recognizes

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

has been observed in the United States for more than two centuries in recognition of the role of faith and prayer in our lives, in our heritage, and in our common humanity.

In 1775, the Continental Congress called for colonists to pray for wisdom in forming a new country. In 1863, President Lincoln asked for prayers to help heal a splintered nation. In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution designating one day each year as the National Day of Prayer, and in 1988 the date of the National Day of Prayer was permanently fixed as the first Thursday in May.

Through prayer we may seek strength and gain comfort in the face of challenge. Through prayer we may give thanks and seek guidance in the face of opportunity. As we observe the National Day of Prayer, I encourage Ohioans to let their faith guide them as they open their hearts and minds for reflection and prayer.



ON THIS THIRD DAY OF MAY, TWO
THOUSAND SEVEN.

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland
Governor

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: On April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved a Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS: Many of our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS: Prayer can reflect many common virtues, bonds, hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love.

NOW,

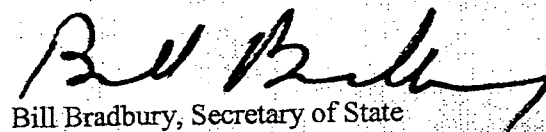
THEREFORE: I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **May 3, 2007** to be

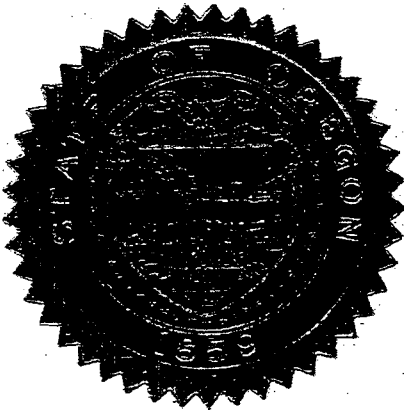
DAY OF PRAYER

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, April 20, 2006.


Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor


Bill Bradbury, Secretary of State



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

DAY OF PRAYER
May 3, 2007

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideals of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom, and assistance; and

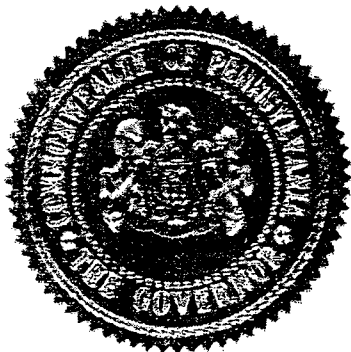
WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, guidance, and protection for our families, government leaders, civil servants, and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty, and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man, and the right to individual religious expression.

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the adversity that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right as well as the progressive individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of age, race, gender, or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that this nation uphold the fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to seek personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget, nor neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation, and personal reflection.

THEREFORE, In recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought, or giving thanks.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-eighth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-first.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

May 3, 2007

as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 3rd day of May 2007.



Donald L. Carcieri

Donald L. Carcieri

Governor

A. Ralph Mollis

A. Ralph Mollis

Secretary of State

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775;
and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for
Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which
our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were
frequently united in observance of prayer; and

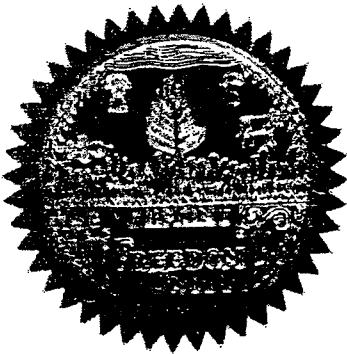
WHEREAS, Vermonters may wish to join in observance of the National Day of
Prayer in the hope that problems, both within our state and nation
and around the world may be peacefully resolved.

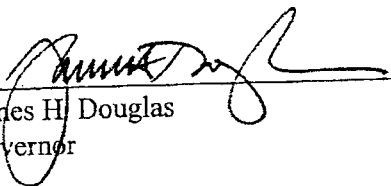
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby
proclaim **May 3, 2007**, as a

DAY OF PRAYER

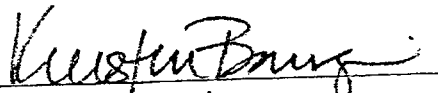
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State
of Vermont this 28th day of March, A.D. 2007.




James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:


Kiersten Bourgeois
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 GOVERNMENT HOUSE
 Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
 340-774-0001

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

OF THE

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS in 1952, the Congress of the United States adopted a Resolution to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May of each year as a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS May 3, 2007 has been designated as National Day of Prayer in the Virgin Islands, commemorating the 56th anniversary of this historic celebration with the theme "America, Unite in Prayer"; and

WHEREAS faith and prayer are important for the guidance they provide in our lives; and

WHEREAS this annual observance has become a unifying force, not only for citizens of our great Nation, but also for residents of the Territory who come from the various religions of the world; and

WHEREAS prayer unites people, healing and allowing us to overcome the trials and tribulations we face daily; and

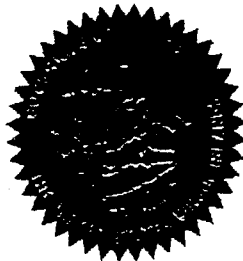
WHEREAS it is especially important that we give thanks and show our appreciation for our Heavenly Father's continued guidance, for He is our rock and our salvation;

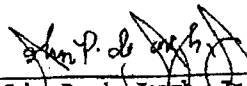
NOW, THEREFORE, I, John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby

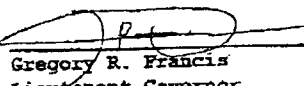
National Day of Prayer Proclamation
 Page Two

proclaim May 3, 2007 as "National Day of Prayer" in the Virgin Islands commemorating the 56th anniversary of this historic celebration. I call upon the residents of the Territory to join with me in observing the occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 16th day of March, A.D., 2007.




 John P. de Jongh, Jr.
 Governor

ATTEST:

 Gregory R. Francis
 Lieutenant Governor

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

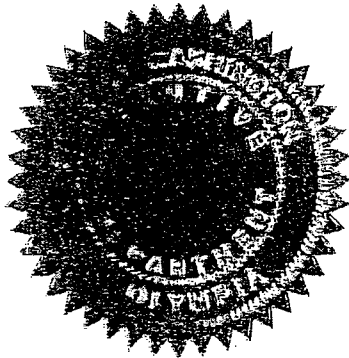
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007, as the

Day of Prayer

in Washington State, in keeping with the wishes of the Congress of the United States, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 6th day of February, 2007

Chris Gregoire
Governor Christine O. Gregoire



Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and benevolent God upon our government and people; and,

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard and who strongly desire to preserve their state's heritage; and,

Whereas, joining in common prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and,

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with a unified expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention in the preservation and continuation of the strong religious principles upon which our nation and our state have been established;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 3, 2007*, as:

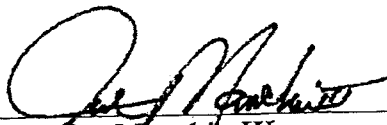
A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join in a national effort to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

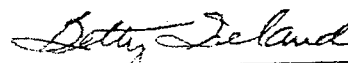
Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven, and in the One Hundred Forty-fourth year of the State.



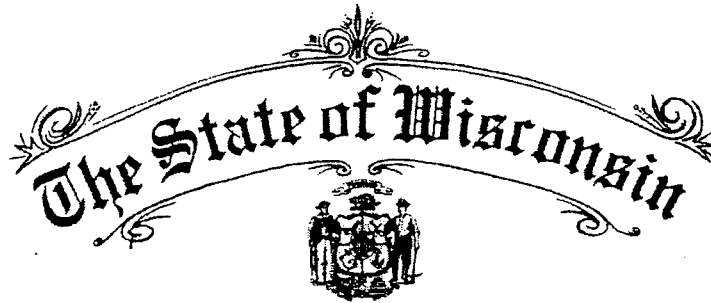


Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:



Betty Ireland
Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "America, Unite in Prayer"; and

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

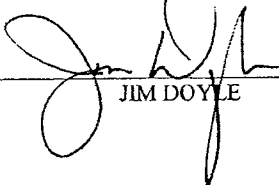
WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2007

WISCONSIN DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this nineteenth day of March in the year two thousand seven.


JIM DOYLE

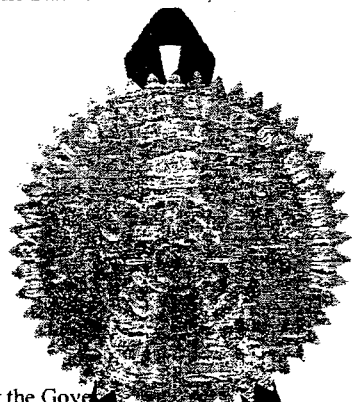
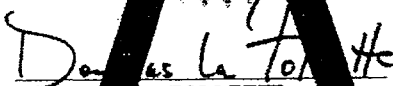
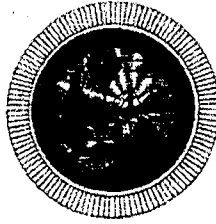
By the Governor


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

EXHIBIT 16



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Day of Prayer

WHEREAS, America was founded on the principles of religious faith and freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have given thanks for the many blessings bestowed on this nation since its inception and have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort and protection; and

WHEREAS, people throughout the world consider prayer a powerful form of expression; and

WHEREAS, prayer comforts us in times of sorrow and gives us strength and hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, we continue giving thanks for the men and women of the military who defend freedom, and we humbly ask for their protection and pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is recognized by Congress as a day for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, this year is the 55th anniversary of the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, with the theme, "America, Honor God," based on Samuel 2:30 (NIV), "...Those who honor Me, I will honor..."; and

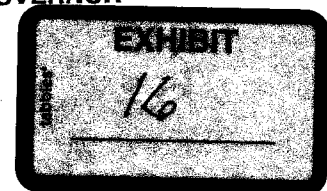
WHEREAS, on May 4, 2006, Americans across the nation will unite in prayer to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing National Day of Prayer, May 4, 2006.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 10th day of April in the year two thousand six.

Jeb Bush
GOVERNOR





Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, with nearly every nation and a variety of religious traditions being represented; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God whether the need be great or small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that almighty being, who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." - George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the almighty disposer of events - to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's god." - William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour. I humbly urge that we take time to pray - to really pray." - Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the divine being." - Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." - Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer, Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "America, honor God" a reaffirmation for the biblical exhortation in 1 Samuel 2:30 "Those who honor me, I will honor.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this twenty-seventh day of January in the year of our Lord two-thousand and six and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirtieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred sixteenth.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

BEN YARSA
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *in times of peril both at home and abroad, many American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and*
 WHEREAS, *millions of men and women across the nation gratefully continue the tradition of prayer in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship across our country; and*
 WHEREAS, *established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and*
 WHEREAS, *the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens' freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment. Americans treasure their religious freedom, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries; and*
 WHEREAS, *the theme for the National Day of Prayer 2006 is America, Honor God, inspired by the passage found in 1 Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor";*
 THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 as **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this TWENTY-EIGHTH day of MARCH, in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
SIX, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and EIGHTY-EIGHTH



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR

4

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

To ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

- WHEREAS, prayer to the Almighty God is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit; and
- WHEREAS, prayer has aided many in times where support and guidance are needed; and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity which our nation and state enjoy and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception; and
- WHEREAS, the Day of Prayer is a time set aside for Americans to pray to their heavenly father and to reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Indiana and the United States of America can and will benefit from prayer by its faithful and prayerful residents; and
- WHEREAS, this year's theme, "America Honor God," is inspired by the exhortation found in 1 Samuel 2:30 NIV, "...Those who honor Me I will honor;" and
- WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer provides a powerful opportunity for people to humble themselves before the Almighty and to seek the "redeeming and preserving grace" of which Lincoln so eloquently spoke in asking God to "shed His grace" on us; and
- WHEREAS, across our land, on May 4, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, it seems fitting to acknowledge these benefits as we assemble to give thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed since America's founding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to pray with diligence and obedience and seek God's direction in the days and years ahead.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 20th day of March, 2006.

M E Daniels, Jr.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

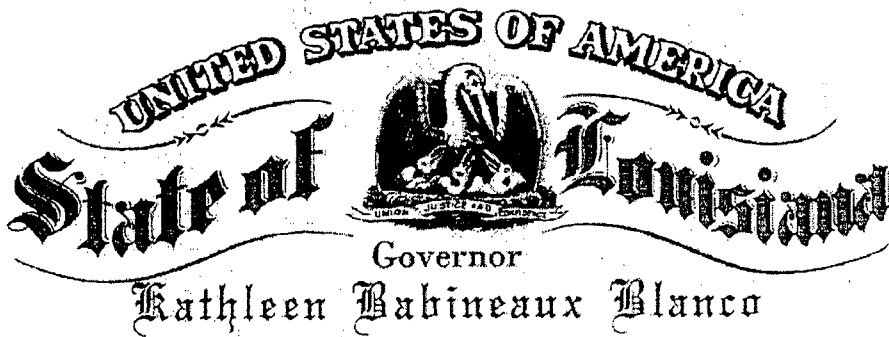
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST:

Todd Rokita
Secretary of State

Todd Rokita

5



Proclamation

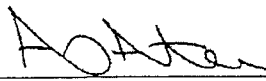
- WHEREAS,** the historical record of the United States, as acknowledged by the highest court in our land, reveals a clear and unmistakable pattern woven throughout our nation's 230 years: America was founded upon the principles and truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures; and
- WHEREAS,** as a nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage, prayer has been and remains an essential element of our national conduct as we seek divine direction and blessing; and
- WHEREAS,** our nation's leaders, beginning with our first President, George Washington, to our current president, George W. Bush, have called upon Americans to individually and corporately pray for and seek God's divine blessing upon our nation in both times of peace and in times of conflict; and
- WHEREAS,** Holy Scripture instructs us in Leviticus 25:10 to proclaim liberty to all the land (Let Freedom Ring); and
- WHEREAS,** in 2006, on the 55th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, we, as a people, seek God's direction through prayer so that our world might enjoy peace.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

DAY OF PRAYER


in the state of Louisiana.



Attest By
The Governor


Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 3rd day of May
A.D., 2006*


Governor of Louisiana

6



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS,

The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS,

The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS,

In 1983, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS,

The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS,

It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS,

This year marks the 55th Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "America, Honor God" reflecting the words in I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor Me, I will honor."

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, the 4th day of May, 2006, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

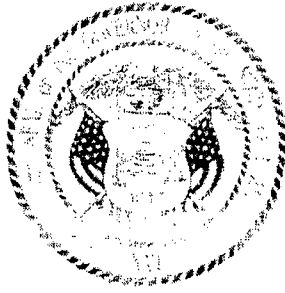
in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this First day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Six.



Jan A. Hall
Secretary of State

Dave Heineman
Governor



Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1785, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the Congress of the United States in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and

Whereas, the theme for this year's celebration is "America, Honor God", inspired by "Those who honor Me I will honor" found in 1 Samuel 2:30;

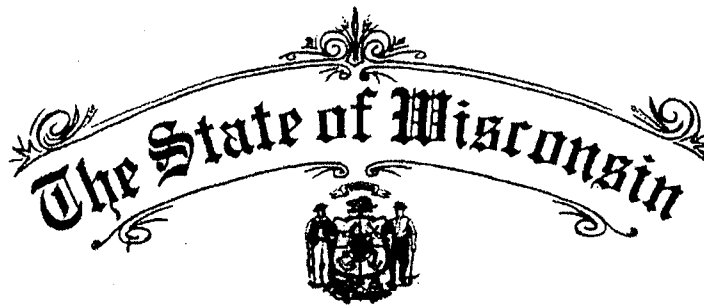
Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 4, 2006, as the

National Day of Prayer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon M. Huntsman, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Governor

8



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "America, Honor God" 1 Samuel 2:30: Those who honor me I will honor"; and

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

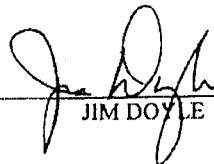
WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations. as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

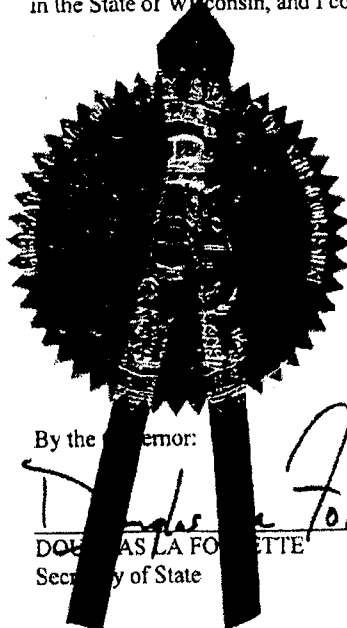
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006

WISCONSIN DAY OF PRAYER

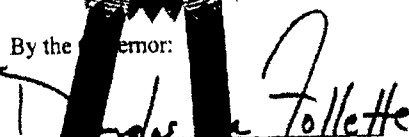
in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty second day of February in the year two thousand six.


JIM DOYLE



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, prayer is a vital part of our heritage as one nation under God; and

WHEREAS, God has promised to answer us when we call upon Him and has promised that when we keep the commands of the Lord our God and walk in his ways, He will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on our land in season and to bless all the work of our hands; and

WHEREAS, we humbly acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness to His promises and for His provision; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming have turned to God in prayer as our military sacrificially defends our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed Joint Resolution 382 on April 17, 1952 establishing an annual national day of prayer to join together as a nation acknowledging God in prayer each year; and

WHEREAS, President Truman signed into law, PL 324, the observance of an annual National Day of Prayer and President Reagan permanently established the first Thursday of May to the National Day of Prayer when he signed PL 100-307; and

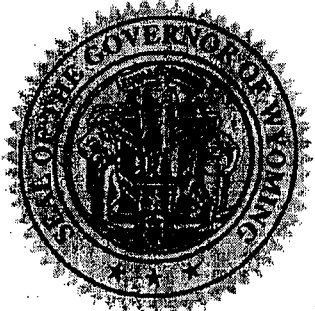
WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "America, Honor God" inspired by the exhortation found in two Chronicles 7:14 "if my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked way, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in Wyoming, and urge our citizens to join with me in prayer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto ~~at~~ my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 9th day of March, 2006.



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

(10)

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, America was founded on the principles of religious faith and freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance and comfort where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings that God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 55th Anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme "America, Honor God," based on 1 Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me, I will honor."; and

WHEREAS, across our nation on May 4, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal and moral value, and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to heal and unite our nation and state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

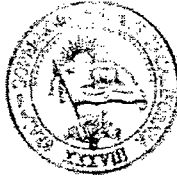
in the State of Arkansas and urge all resident to pray with diligence, humility and obedience and seek the face of Almighty God to direct our paths in the days and years ahead.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2006.




MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR


CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 4, 2006

National Day of Prayer

I am pleased to offer my greetings to all who have gathered for the fifty-fifth annual *National Day of Prayer*.

Today is a wonderful occasion to showcase the deep spirituality and kinship of Americans. Events like these exemplify the freedoms we enjoy and display the unity of our nation's religious community.

This longstanding tradition dates back to 1952, when President Truman first established an annual national day of prayer. Since 1988, the first Thursday of every May has given Americans the opportunity to worship through reflection and thanksgiving. This year's theme, "America, honor God," invites citizens to petition for the guidance and protection of our families, government and armed forces. }

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable observance and every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

12



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions; and

WHEREAS: Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, "America. Honor God;" and

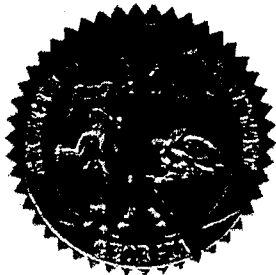
WHEREAS: As our nation is involved in an ongoing conflict in Iraq and in the global war against terrorism, we pray for God's blessing upon our military troops, here and abroad, praying for protection, wisdom and divine guidance as they serve our nation. We furthermore ask that He bless the Iraqi people with peace and wisdom as they continue to journey towards democracy; and

WHEREAS: We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that He watch over them as they watch over us; and

WHEREAS: We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers, many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21st of March in the year of our Lord two thousand six.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Al K. Walker
CHIEF OF STAFF

13



Proclamation

WHEREAS, people from across the United States seek comfort and joy through prayer and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2006, Americans united together will gather for the 55th annual National Day of Prayer with the theme "*America, Honor God*"; and

WHEREAS, established in 1952 by an act of Congress, this tradition has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

WHEREAS, Americans across the country will gather to pray for wisdom and guidance in churches and other places of worship; and

WHEREAS, this fundamental right is guaranteed by our nation's First Amendment to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, this observance strives to help the people of Hawai'i draw strength from our Creator and reaffirm the importance of prayer; and


WHEREAS, on O'ahu, the National Day of Prayer Task Force will host events at Kapolei Regional Park at noon, and at the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.,

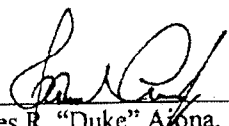
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, to be

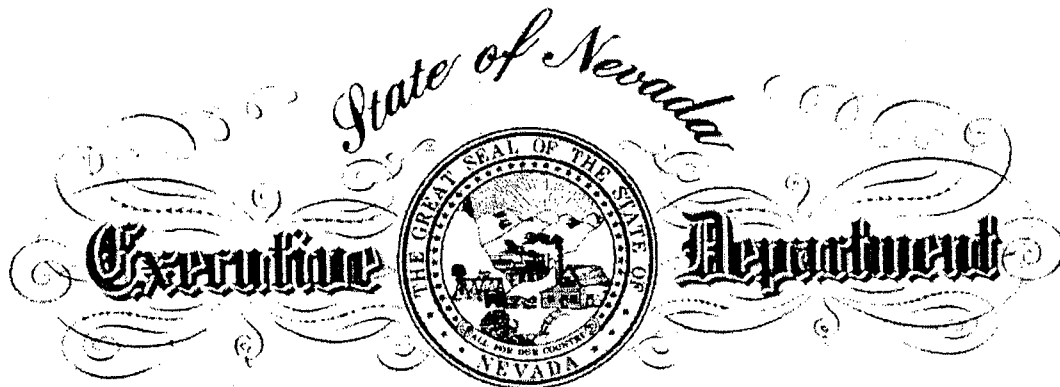
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the Aloha State, and encourage our citizens to join in prayer on this day.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of April 2006.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada will join together with the entire country on May 4, 2006, to celebrate the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald W. Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May every year; and

WHEREAS, each year, the President of the United States signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day, and in 2005, state governors and the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2006 National Day of Prayer is "America, Honor God"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada recognizes this very special day, and joins with Americans across the nation in support of the National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KENNY C. GUINN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

A DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 17th day of February 2006.

Kenny C. Guinn
By the Governor
Allen Heller
Secretary of State

By _____ Deputy



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 101-307, officially established an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans, as it encompasses the backgrounds of all citizens and values the many faiths that they include; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders prayed for wisdom while forming this nation and continue to look for spiritual guidance in confronting the many challenges of our day; and

WHEREAS, the United States, a country that was established by people from all regions of the globe, rely upon our religious liberty in order to preserve the individuality and diversity that gives our nation its unique richness and strength of character; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "America, Honor God": (

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 4th, 2006 as:

"A Day of Prayer in New Mexico"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

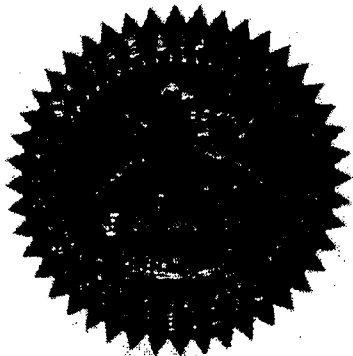
Attest:

Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
29th day of March, 2006.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor



State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2006

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 4, 2006, marks the 55th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, as mandated by both Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, it is good that we acknowledge that we are all God's handiwork and that it is appropriate to call upon Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, "America Honor God...I will honor those who honor me" is the theme for the 2006 National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work, and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation.



Michael F. Easley
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh, this eighteenth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer has been a part of our nation's history since first being proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation asking Americans to set aside April 30th as a day to "confess national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness;" and

WHEREAS, such a day has been observed nationally since 1952 when Congress and President Harry S. Truman provided for a National Day of Prayer "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation;" and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation designating that a National Day of Prayer is to be observed on the first Thursday of every May was unanimously ratified by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to citizens of many faiths, and prayer has long been a positive force that unites our citizens and serves as a source of inspiration and hope to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 4, 2006 with the theme "America, Honor God;" and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to observe a Day of Prayer in Ohio as a time when all citizens may acknowledge our blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the continuing need for strong positive values to guide our state and nation.

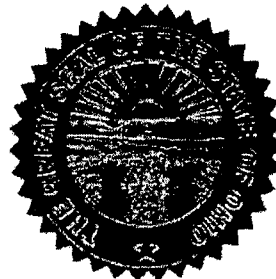
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB TAFT, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate May 4, 2006 as

A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Ohio, which stands as an apt companion to our state motto, "With God All Things Are Possible."

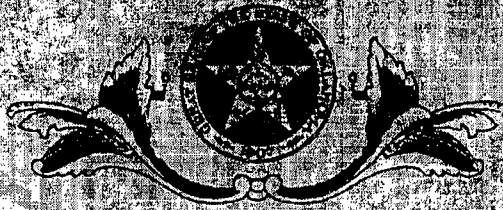
On this 4th day of May, 2006;

Bob Taft
Bob Taft
Governor



18

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition and important occasion first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and Americans since the days of our founders have shared our dependence on God, faith and prayer while insisting on religious freedom; and

Whereas, it is eminently fitting and proper that we in Oklahoma observe a day when all of us in our communities may acknowledge our blessings, and express gratitude for them while recognizing our need for the strengthening of spiritual and moral values in our land; and

Whereas, the 2006 theme for the National Day of Prayer is "America, Honor God". Given the tragic disasters and the challenging times which test our country's will and faith, it is appropriate to turn to God for faith, repentance, support, healing, protection and guidance in order that we may honor God, build stronger communities of character based on His ways and have great hope for the future; and

Whereas, world events and our great need at this time, make this a critical year for prayer to Almighty God for ourselves, our communities and our leaders; and

Whereas, prayer reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in troubled and difficult times;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim
May 4, 2006, as

"A Day of Prayer"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma
City, this 30th day of March, in the
Year of Our Lord two thousand and six
and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-eighth
year.

M. Susan Savage
SECRETARY OF STATE
Pls Rsp Req POD 66

GOVERNOR

19

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

Whereas, The 2006 theme, "America, Honor God" was chosen to reaffirm the importance of maintaining the moral underpinnings that have been fundamental to our society since America's inception; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to participate in local community activities to recognize this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.


M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:
Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

WHEREAS IN 1952, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO SET ASIDE AND PROCLAIM THE FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS A "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"; AND

WHEREAS THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, COMMEMORATING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION WITH THE THEME "AMERICA, HONOR GOD"; AND

WHEREAS WITH ALL THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS WE FACE DAILY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LIVE EVER MINDFUL OF HIS JUSTICE AND GIVE THANKS FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLES W. TURNBULL, GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 4, 2006 AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMEMORATING THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION. I CALL UPON THE RESIDENTS OF THE TERRITORY TO JOIN WITH ME IN OBSERVING THE OCCASION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS TO BE AFFIXED AT CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS, THIS 27TH DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 2006.



Charles W. Turnbull

CHARLES W. TURNBULL
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Vargrave Richards

VARGRAVE RICHARDS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



PROCLAMATION

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

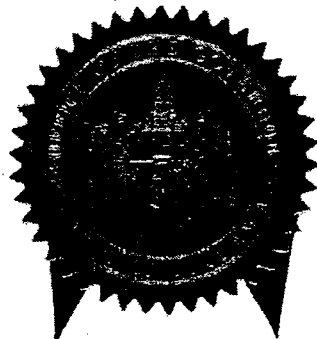
WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 55th annual National Day of Prayer, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this symbolic event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim, May 4, 2006, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 7th day of March 2006.

Bob Riley
Governor Bob Riley

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation **by** **Frank H. Murkowski, Governor**

Nancy and I are often called upon to join Alaskans in prayer as an offering of thanksgiving, of celebration, of grief, and of hope. Prayer gives us something meaningful and personal to do on behalf of those we love and care about. National Day of Prayer is a day to reflect on and recognize the power of prayer in our lives.

As a nation, we have offered our collective prayers for each other on 9-11; as a state, we prayed for the family of our fallen Alaskans who served in Iraq; and as individuals, we pray daily for our personal and family needs and for the hope of a better tomorrow.

On May 4, 2006, I urge you to join millions of Americans across racial, political, and denominational boundaries to observe our National Day of Prayer.

The National Day of Prayer is a long-standing tradition that began with the first Continental Congress on July 20, 1775. On May 5, 1988, President Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

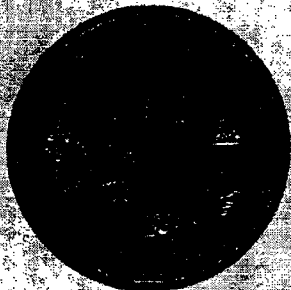
On May 4, please pray for our national leaders, for our state and local leaders, for those engaged in missions of peacekeeping around our world, for those in need, and for peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as:

National Day of Prayer

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to observe this day in prayer.

Dated: April 10, 2006



A handwritten signature of Frank H. Murkowski in cursive script.

*Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Office of the Governor

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

WHEREAS, the religious freedom guaranteed us by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the diversity of faiths practiced in America have made our land a beacon for people who seek freedom for worship according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, Americans of every race, background and creed come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and their own homes to pray or meditate for guidance, wisdom and courage; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona are a diverse people, with a remarkable variety of cultures and religious traditions – "many lands, many people, many faiths" – that blend into ONE ARIZONA; and

WHEREAS, just as we rely on prayer or reflection for courage, hope and renewal in our private lives, so too do we turn to prayer or reflection at times of joy, crisis and tragedy in our public life as a Nation and a State; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer and reflection in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS, we are especially mindful of the heroic men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those serving abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby join with the President of the United States and my fellow Governors to proclaim May 4, 2006 as a

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

and encourage all Arizonians to pray or reflect on their own and give thanks for the rich blessings of our State and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



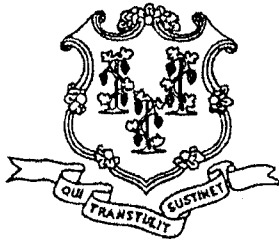
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this second day of February in the year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirtieth

ATTEST


Secretary of State

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

May 4, 2006 marks the 55th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme of this year's nationwide celebration is "America, Honor God"; and

In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress, and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

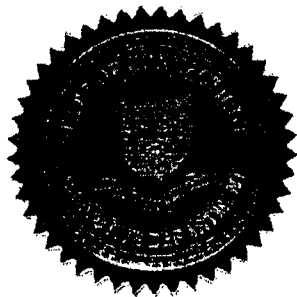
It is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our Nation and to pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has graciously been bestowed upon this Nation since its inception; and

As caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

Therefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 4, 2006, as the

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor


State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

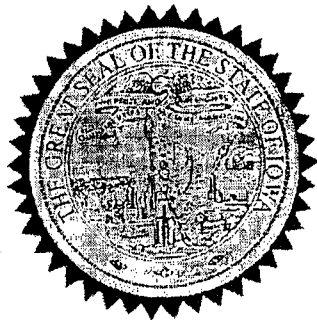
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1775; AND
- WHEREAS, IN 1783, THE END OF A LONG, WEARYING REVOLUTIONARY WAR MARKED A TEMPORARY END TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER; AND
- WHEREAS, REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS; AND
- WHEREAS, THIS NATION HAS FERVENTLY SOUGHT DIVINE GUIDANCE AS IT CHARTED WHAT HAS NOW BECOME THE PATH OF AMERICAN HISTORY:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 4, 2006, AS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA, AND CALL UPON CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THIS DAY IN HIS OR HER OWN SPECIAL WAY.

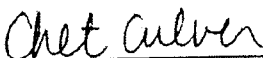


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 16th DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIX.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE
by J. Klaassen, Deputy

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 55th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, observed the first Thursday of every May, since President Harry Truman officially established an annual, national day of prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Each community of faith deserves the recognition, respect, and protection of all others; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings, express gratitude for them, support our troops and pray for peace;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as a

National Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
March, A.D. 2006

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

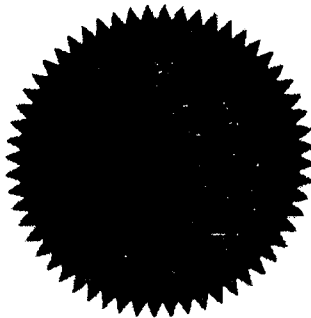
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1952 – and amended in 1988 - declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer,

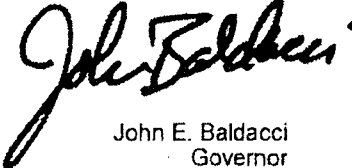
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 4th, 2006 as


A DAY OF PRAYER

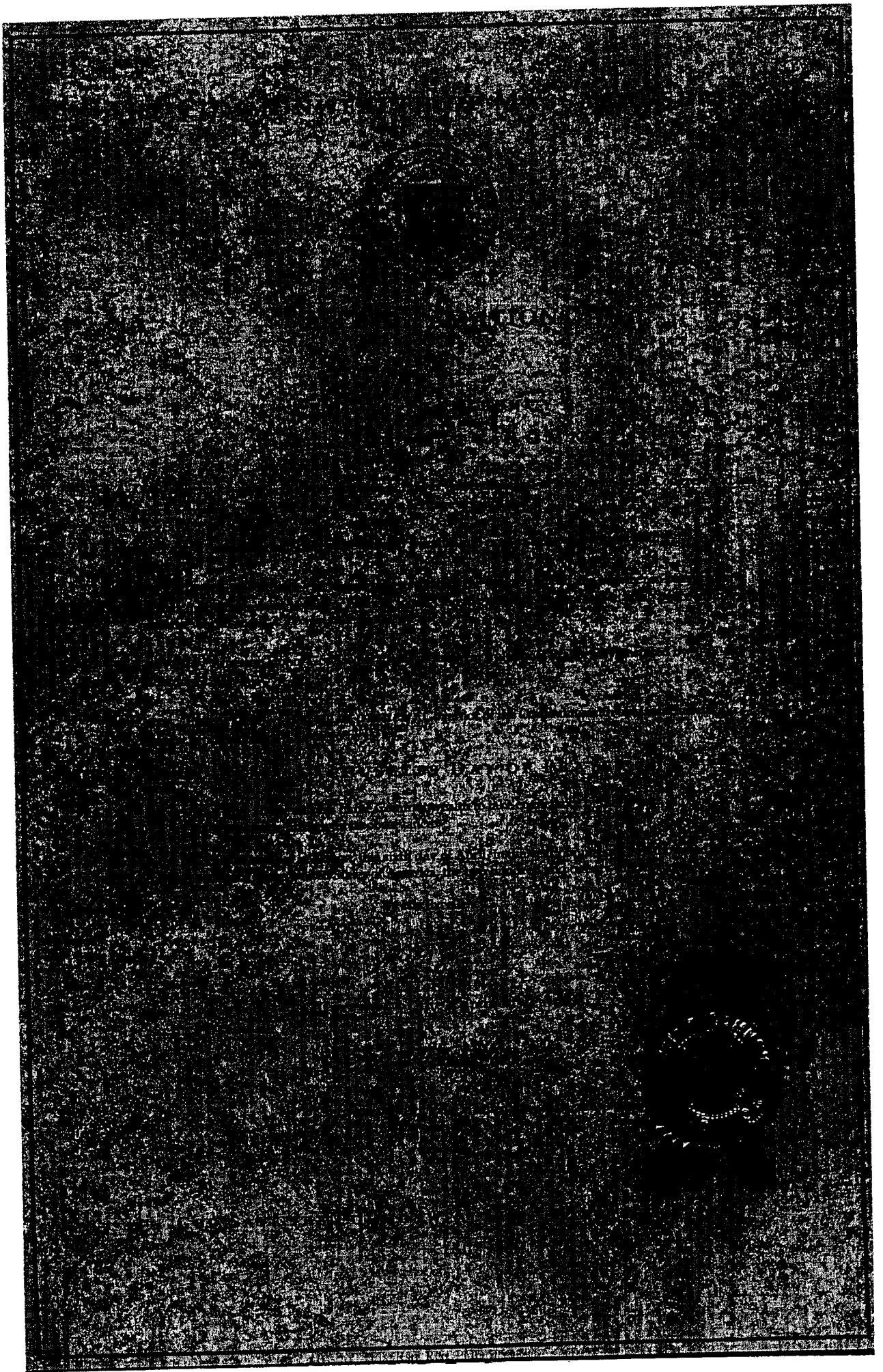
throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-second day of March in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Six.


John E. Baldacci
Governor


Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY



The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 4, 2006

WHEREAS, *In 1952, Congress called upon President Truman to proclaim a Day of Prayer nationwide. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *Prayer can play a valuable and productive role in strengthening bonds of understanding, tolerance, friendship and unity among all people; and*

WHEREAS, *Marylanders cherish our heritage of religious freedom and throughout our State and the Nation events will take place to celebrate and honor the National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *Maryland is pleased to join in recognizing the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 as **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

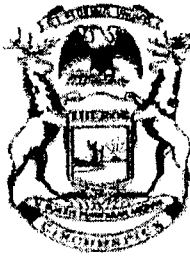
Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 4th day of May
Two Thousand and six

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

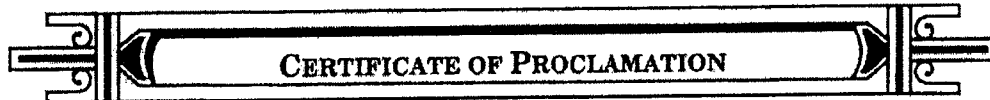
Myrtle Anne
Secretary of State

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

A Day of Prayer

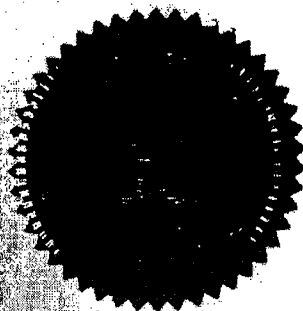
Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

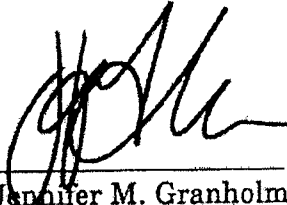
Whereas, In Michigan we are fortunate to have been blessed with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests, and a people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural, and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all our citizens; and,

Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest, and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge their beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we, as a society and a nation, face here at home and throughout the world, and to rededicate ourselves to helping others, strengthening our personal faith, and joining together to spread hope, peace, and love among all people; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, A Day of Prayer in Michigan.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



STATE of MINNESOTA

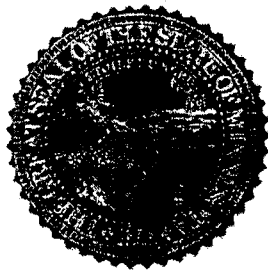
Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state that enjoys so many blessings: natural beauty, abundant resources, strong families, a diversified economy, native peoples, and immigrants from all over the world; and
WHEREAS: Minnesota is challenged by the pervasive enemies of humankind: poverty, sickness, hunger, injustice, prejudice, discouragement, greed, crime, and alienation; and
WHEREAS: Minnesotans have always had high standards of excellence, justice, generosity, freedom, equality, and progress and have faced their problems with resolve; and
WHEREAS: We know our state has been strengthened by the conscience-based actions of people of faith in all walks of life; and
WHEREAS: We know many of the challenges we face require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about; and
WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins with these words, "We the people of the state of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 4, 2006, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and to seek strength, wisdom and encouragement to build a better Minnesota for all our people.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 14th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the State the one hundred forty-seventh.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, In 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, In these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the fifty-fourth observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

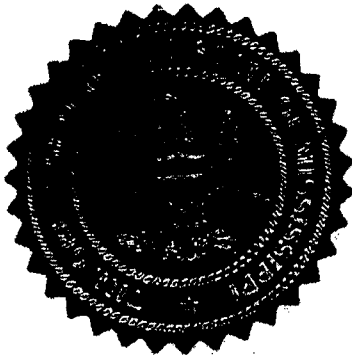
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 4th, 2006, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the second day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirtieth.



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

February 2, 2006

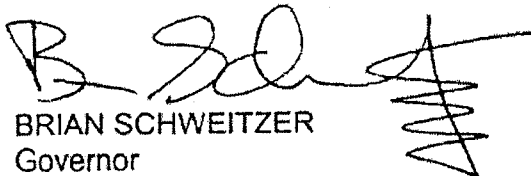
Beth Nachbar
P.O. Box 15616
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616

Dear Beth,

I am delighted to join Montanans of every faith in recognition of Thursday, May 4, 2006, as National Day of Prayer.

This event is an opportunity to recognize the magnificent diversity of religious belief across America and Montana and should serve to unite people of faith from every culture and tradition.

Sincerely,


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 4, 2006

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

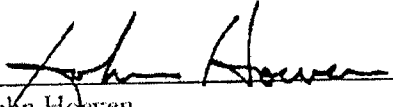
WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and


WHEREAS, a day of prayer is a day to remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, and to recognize those who have returned safely home to their family and friends; we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and the families who mourn their loss; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, allowing us an opportunity to celebrate our freedoms and America's great tradition of prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov
Pls_Rsp_Req_POD_159



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 4, 2006, marks the 55th Annual National Day of Prayer with this year's theme, "America, Honor God";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

MAY 4, 2006

as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this eight day of February in the year of Our Lord two thousand six and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and thirtieth.

GOVERNOR

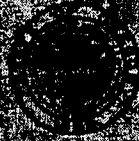


BY THE GOVERNOR:

Nina Mitchell Wells

**NINA MITCHELL WELLS
SECRETARY OF STATE**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OREGON



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: On April 27, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved a Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-321, 66 Stat. 64), and

WHEREAS: Many of our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving, and

WHEREAS: Prayer can reflect many common virtues, joys, hopes and aspirations, sorrows and tears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 to be

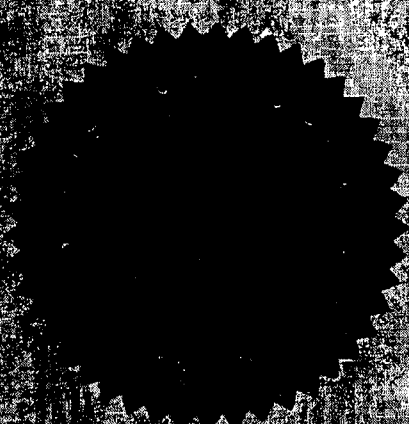
DAY OF PRAYER

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

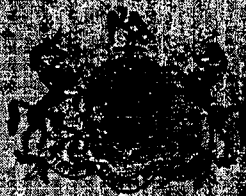
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto my hand and
cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem, the
State of Oregon on this day, April 1, 2006.


Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor


Bill Bradbury, Secretary of State



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
May 4, 2006

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideals of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom, and assistance; and

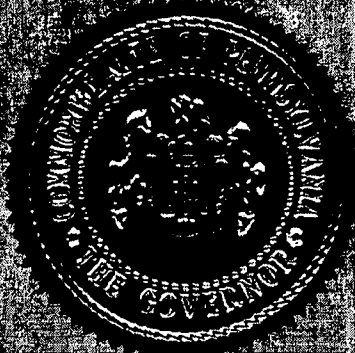
WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, guidance, and protection for our families, governmental leaders, civil servants, and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty, and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man, and the right to individual religious expression;

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the sacrifices that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right as well as the sacrifices individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of race, gender, or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that our Nation uphold its fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to its personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget, nor neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation, and personal reflection;

WHEREFORE, in recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, to be the DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought, or other means.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this thirteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and sixth.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

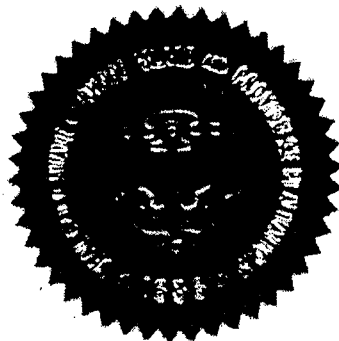
May 4, 2006

as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 4th day of May 2006.



Donald L. Carcieri

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Matthew A. Brown

Matthew A. Brown
Secretary of State

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

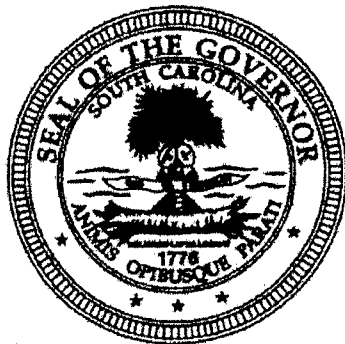
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, many of our leaders have always turned to prayer in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, legislation was passed unanimously in 1988 by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan setting aside the first Thursday in May of each year as a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Congress has declared May 4, 2006 as the 55th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, I join with our President and the Governors of the United States, and invite Tennesseans of faith to join in prayer for our nation and our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 as

National Day of Prayer

in Tennessee, and encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the importance and significance that this day has for people of all faiths.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 8th day of March, 2006.



Phil Bredesen

Governor

Riley C. Darrell

Secretary of State



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The year was 1775, and the early foundations of our nation were being laid. It was a day and time of great expectation. An unprecedented period in world history, these early years were ones in which the founding fathers well knew the formidable task that faced them. So it came to pass that the Continental Congress asked the colonies to join in prayer as they moved toward forming the greatest democracy the world has ever known. Later, President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer."

Embracing our heritage and building on our early foundation, we are asked again this year to join in prayer as a state and nation for the 55th Annual National Day of Prayer. Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer and reflection, during times of strength and times of difficulty, in moments of joy and moments of despair, seeking comfort, giving thanks, asking for God's guidance and abiding grace.

God has blessed us and shed His grace on this great land, but each of us has the responsibility to treasure, protect and strengthen its foundation for the generations to come.

As our nation comes together, let us all pray for a unity of hearts and righteousness for this great state, this great nation and all mankind.

I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006,

A Day of Prayer



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
18th day of March, 2006.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were frequently united in observance of prayer; and

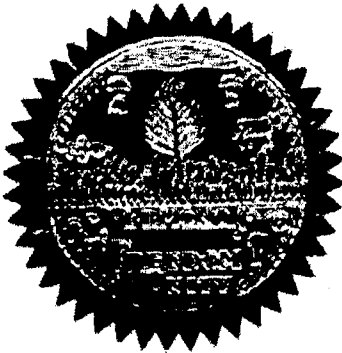
WHEREAS, citizens of Vermont may wish to join in observance of the National Day of Prayer in the hope that problems, both within our nation and overseas, may be peacefully resolved.

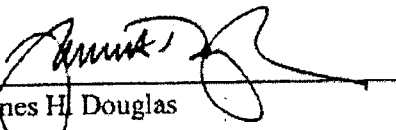
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as a

DAY OF PRAYER

in Vermont.

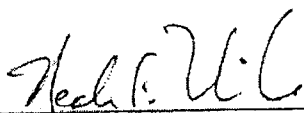
Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 28th day of March, A.D. 2006.





James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:



Neale F. Lunderville
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006, as the

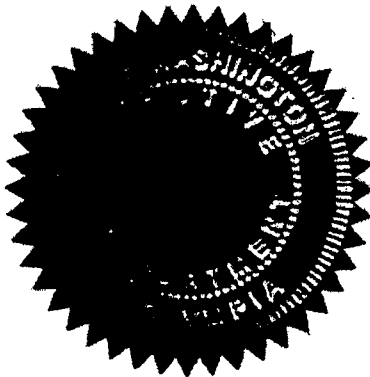
Day of Prayer

in Washington State, in keeping with the wishes of the Congress of the United States, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 20th day of January, 2006

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire



Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and beneficent God upon our government and people; and

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard and who strongly desire to preserve their state's heritage; and

Whereas, joining in common prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with a unified expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention in the preservation and continuation of strong religious principles upon which our nation and our state have been established;

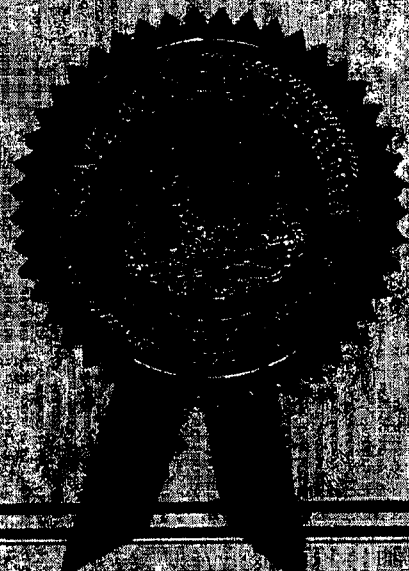
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 4, 2006*, as:

A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join in a national effort to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Six, and in the One Hundred Forty-ninth year of the State.




Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:


Betty Ireland
Secretary of State

EXHIBIT 17

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, America was founded on the principles of religious faith and freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance and comfort where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings that God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 54th Anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme "God Shed His Grace on Thee," based on Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."; and

WHEREAS, across our nation on May 5, Americans will unite at specific time in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal and moral values, and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to heal and unite our nation and state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

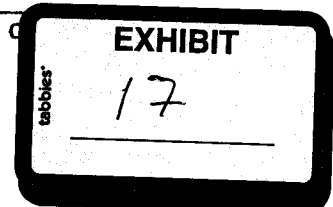
in the State of Arkansas and urge all residents to pray with diligence, humility and obedience and seek the face of Almighty God to direct our paths in the days and years ahead.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 1st day of April, in the year of our Lord 2005.




MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR


CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE



(1)



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Day of Prayer

WHEREAS, millions of people throughout the world consider prayer the most important utterance of mankind; and

WHEREAS, prayer comforts us in times of sorrow and gives us strength and hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, Americans have given thanks to God for the many blessings which God has graciously bestowed on our nation and have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort and protection; and

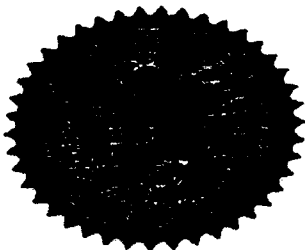
WHEREAS, we continue to give thanks for the men and women of the military who defend freedom, and we humbly ask God for their protection and pray for peace throughout the world. We ask God to keep His hand upon us and bless the great State of Florida and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the *National Day of Prayer* is recognized by Congress as a day for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, this year is the 54th anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the *National Day of Prayer*, with this year's theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee," based on Hebrews 4:16 (NIV), "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2005, Americans across our nation and state will unite in prayer to acknowledge our dependence upon God, give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, recognize our need for personal and community repentance and renewal, invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and blessings to all observing *National Day of Prayer*, May 5, 2005.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
the State of Florida to be affixed
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
31st day of March in the year
of our Lord two thousand five.


GOVERNOR



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, with nearly every nation and a variety of religious traditions being represented; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God whether the need be great or small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that almighty being, who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." - George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the almighty disposer of events - to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's god." - William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour. I humbly urge that we take time to pray - to really pray." - Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the divine being." - Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." - Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer, Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "God Shed His Grace on Thee" a reaffirmation for the biblical exhortation in Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this fifth day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and five and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred fiftieth.


DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR


BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF ILLINOIS

 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *in times of peril both at home and abroad, many American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and*
 WHEREAS, *millions of men and women across the nation gratefully continue the tradition of prayer in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship across our country; and*
 WHEREAS, *established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and*
 WHEREAS, *the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment. Americans treasure their religious freedom, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries; and*
 WHEREAS, *the theme for the National Day of Prayer 2005 is God Shed His Grace on Thee, inspired by the passage found in Hebrews 4:16: "...let them approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need";*

THEREFORE, I, Rod Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this TWENTY-FIRST day of MARCH, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and FIVE, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and EIGHTY-SEVENTH



Debbie White
 SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich
 GOVERNOR

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

To ALL To WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

- WHEREAS, prayer to the Almighty God is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit; and
- WHEREAS, prayer has aided many in times where support and guidance are needed; and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity which our nation and state enjoy and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception; and
- WHEREAS, the Day of Prayer is a time set aside for Americans to pray to their heavenly Father and to reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Indiana and the United States of America can and will benefit from prayer by its faithful and prayerful residents; and
- WHEREAS, this year's theme, "God Shed His grace on thee," is inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16 NIV, "...Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need;" and
- WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer provides a powerful opportunity for people to humble themselves before the Almighty and to seek the "redeeming and preserving grace" of which Lincoln so eloquently spoke in asking God to "shed His grace" on us; and
- WHEREAS, across our land, on May 5th, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, it seems fitting to acknowledge these benefits as we assemble to give thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed since America's founding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to pray with diligence and obedience and seek God's direction in the days and years ahead.



Todd Rokita

ATTEST: Todd Rokita
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 8th day of March, 2005.

Mitch Daniels

BY THE GOVERNOR: Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

Proclamation

by

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, Since the Continental Congress's first declaration of a day of prayer in 1775, the people of this great country have regularly gathered to pray for our nation, its people, and our leaders; and

WHEREAS, We continue to give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women in the military, and ask that God will grant them courage and grace as they bravely defend freedom throughout the world and comfort to their families; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the 54th National Day of Prayer, "God Shed His Grace On Thee," which is based on Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need," reminds us of the sovereignty of God; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Kentucky, and encourage all citizens of the Commonwealth to join with other Americans throughout the nation in venues of prayer, each according to his or her own faith, giving thanks for the freedoms and blessings of God's grace and asking for God's continued guidance and protection.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 11th day of April, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Five and in the 213th year of the Commonwealth.



Ernie Fletcher
ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

Trey Grayson
Trey Grayson
Secretary of State

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
State of Louisiana
 GOVERNOR
 Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

the historical record of the United States, as acknowledged by the highest Court in our land, reveals a clear and unmistakable pattern woven through our nation's 228 years; America was founded upon the principles and truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures;

WHEREAS,

as a nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage, prayer has been and remains an essential element of our national character; we seek divine direction and blessing;

WHEREAS,

our nation's leaders, beginning with our first President, George Washington to our current President, George W. Bush, have called upon Americans to pray morally and courageously for and seek God's direction for our nation in both times of peace and in times of crisis;

WHEREAS,

in times of great crisis we have been prompted by officially proclaimed days of prayer to seek God's guidance; and

WHEREAS,

the Holy Scriptures teaches us in Leviticus 25:10 to proclaim liberty to all the land (including our King) and

WHEREAS,

in 2005 on the 50th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, we call upon the people of Louisiana to seek God's direction through prayer so that our words might be fulfilled;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2005, as

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Louisiana, and encourage all of the citizens of Louisiana to participate in seeking God's blessing both upon our state and our nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
 the 18th day of March
 A.D., 2005

Attest By
 The Governor

Joseph S. Keithen
 Secretary of State

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
 Governor of Louisiana

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

2005

WHEREAS: The tradition of a National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by an act of Congress and has since become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

WHEREAS: Each American has the freedom to worship and pray as he or she desires; and

WHEREAS: This day provides all Massachusetts citizens the opportunity to join together and be thankful for their blessings; and

WHEREAS: The National Day of Prayer Task Force is inviting people to embrace prayer and renew their commitment to our moral and spiritual heritage in 2005 with the theme "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

WHEREAS: The inspiration for this year's theme was found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITT ROMNEY, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2005, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN MASSACHUSETTS

and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

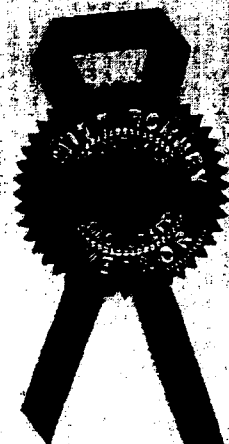
Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

By His Excellency the Governor


MITT ROMNEY



WILLIAM F. GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri
Proclamation

WHEREAS, National days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, the 54th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 5, 2005, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks on this occasion for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the Almighty will continue to bless this nation and protect its people and principles from the enemies of democracy; and

WHEREAS, the scripture states that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge we are all God's handiwork, and we should feel free to call upon Him in prayer.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matt Blunt, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 5th 2005, as:

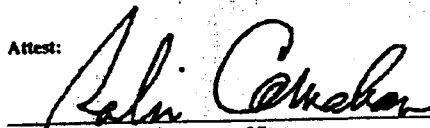
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 14th day of January 2005.




Governor

Attest: 
Secretary of State



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS,

The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS,

The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS,

In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS,

The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS,

It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS,

This year marks the 54th Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "God Shed His Grace On Thee" reflecting the words in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need."

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, the 5th day of May, 2005, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Five.



Attest:

John D. Hall

Secretary of State

Dave Heineman

Governor

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2005

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 5, 2005, marks the 54th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, it is good that we acknowledge that we are all God's handiwork and that it is appropriate to call upon Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, "God Shed His Grace on Thee...Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" is the theme for the 2005 National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a "DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work, and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind, and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation.



Mike Easley
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifteenth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to join in prayer, seeking wisdom when faced with the responsibility and opportunity of forming this greatest of nations we call home. Prayer has remained an integral part of our rich history, as many Americans of all faiths regularly gather to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders.

We are asked again this year to join together in prayer as a state and nation on Thursday, May 5, 2005, for the 54th Annual National Day of Prayer. The spirit of this year's theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee," is reflected in Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer and reflection, during times of strength and weakness and in moments of joy and despair, seeking comfort, giving thanks and asking for guidance and grace when we need it most.

God has blessed us and shed His grace on this great land, but each of us has the responsibility to treasure, protect and strengthen its foundation for the generations to come.

As our nation comes together, let us all pray for a unity of hearts and righteousness for this great state, this great nation and all mankind.

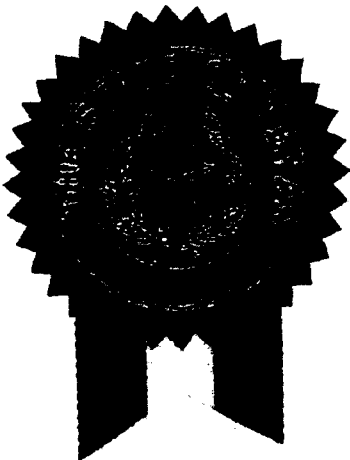
I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005,

A Day of Prayer

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
15th day of February, 2005.


Governor of Texas





Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.
Governor
Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1783, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the Congress of the United States in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

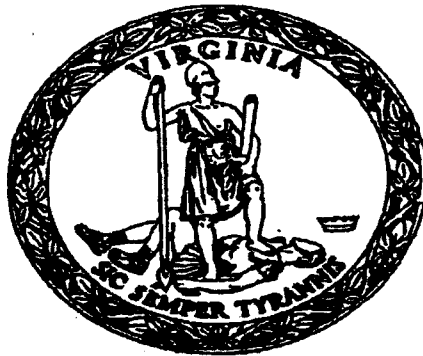
Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and

Whereas, the theme for this year's celebration is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16;

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 5, 2005, as the

National Day of Prayer

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.
Governor



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout our Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775 and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this day of prayer, *God Shed His Grace on Thee*, comes from the scripture Hebrews 4:16, which says to "Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Day of Prayer is recognized by Virginians and Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer for our loved ones and for our enemies, and to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize May 5, 2005, as VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner
Governor

Anita A. Rindler
Secretary of the Commonwealth



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "God Shed His Grace on Thee"... Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"; and

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

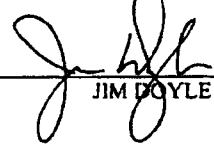
WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

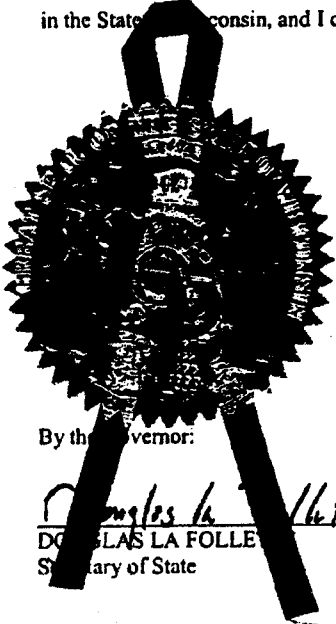
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005

WISCONSIN DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this seventeenth day of February in the year two thousand five.


JIM DOYLE

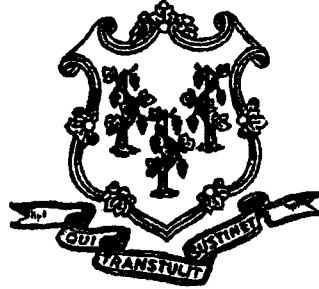


By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLE
Secretary of State

16

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: a

PROCLAMATION

May 5, 2005 marks the 54th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme of this year's nationwide celebration is "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress, and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

It is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our Nation and to pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has graciously been bestowed upon this Nation since its inception; and

As caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

Therefore, I, M. JODI RELL, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 5, 2005, as the

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, this fifteenth day of March, two thousand and five and of the independence of the United States the two hundred twenty-ninth.



M. Jodi Rell
by Her Excellency's Command

James B. ...
Secretary of the State

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
A DAY OF PRAYER

Whereas, it is noteworthy that at our country's inception there was a clear mandate to protect citizens' religious freedom and to create an atmosphere where prayer in the public square was not only acceptable, but embraced; and

Whereas, this year's National Day of Prayer theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee" allows us the opportunity to punctuate the importance of vigilance in maintaining the cherished rights that under gird American life: the freedom to gather and worship and to pray according to the dictates of their conscience; and

Whereas, in his first inaugural address, George Washington related, "it would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations and whose providential aids can supply every human defeat, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States"; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer; and

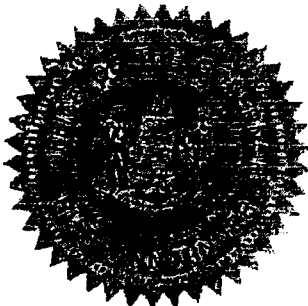
Whereas, National Day of Prayer observances are planned in all 50 states and territories, a tradition which was established in 1952 by an act of Congress and since has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

Whereas, the First State has led the nation in so many other areas, it is proper and fitting that Delaware lead in encouraging and recognizing those who look for answers to problems, while seeking comfort through prayer.

*Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor,
and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare May 5, 2005*

A DAY OF PRAYER

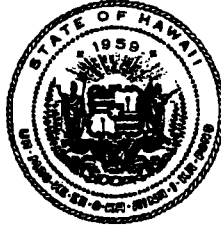
in the State of Delaware, and invite our fellow Delawareans to gather together on this day in their homes, churches and in various meeting places to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind. We ask our creator to give wisdom and favor to our leaders, bless our nation with peace and the joy of working together to provide health, prosperity and freedom for our children and our children's children.



Ruth Ann Minner
Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

John C. Carney, Jr.
John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor

05-115
Number



Proclamation

WHEREAS, many people across the United States seek comfort and joy through prayer and fellowship, and millions will gather on May 5 for the 54th annual National Day of Prayer with its 2005 theme "*God Shed His Grace on Thee*"; and

WHEREAS, this tradition was established in 1952 by an act of Congress, and since then has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

WHEREAS, in churches and other places of worship, Americans across the country will gather to pray for wisdom and guidance; and

WHEREAS the diverse citizens of Hawai'i seek the freedom to worship according to their own conscience; and

WHEREAS, this fundamental right is guaranteed by our nation's First Amendment to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, this observance strives to help the people of Hawai'i draw strength from our Creator and reaffirm the importance of prayer,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the Aloha State, and encourage our citizens to join in prayer on this day.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-eighth day of April 2005.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

*State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor*

A Proclamation

**DAY OF PRAYER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAY 6, 2005**

WHEREAS, New Hampshire wishes to join with other states and the federal government in acknowledging the importance of prayer in the lives of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's Day of Prayer is "God Shed His Grace on thee," symbolizing God's blessing on our country and for those in positions of leadership at the local, state, and federal level; and

WHEREAS, in times of uncertainty, people have used prayer as a way to find both strength and courage in themselves and in the world around them; and

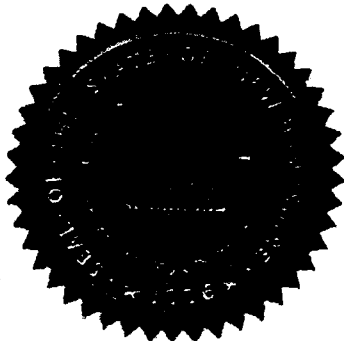
WHEREAS, in times of prosperity, people have used prayer as a means to give thanks for their good fortune and for their freedom as citizens of the United States and of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, for many of our citizens, prayer provides solace: a way to connect with one's self and determine those things that are important in their lives; and

WHEREAS, since 1952, the nation has celebrated the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, this is the 54th observance of this important day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the state of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2005, as Day of Prayer in New Hampshire. I urge Granite State residents to consider the importance of prayer in the lives of millions of Americans, and for those that wish to take time to pray in accordance to their belief.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord, this 20th day of April, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and five, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and twenty-nine.


John H. Lynch
Governor



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 101-307, officially established an annual, National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that brings together citizens from all backgrounds and respects the rich and diverse faiths that they include; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders prayed for wisdom while forming this nation and continue to look for spiritual guidance as we confront the many challenges of our day; and

WHEREAS, the United States, a country that was established by people from all regions of the globe, rely upon our religious liberty in order to preserve the individuality and diversity that gives our nation its unique richness and strength of character; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005 as:

"National Day of Prayer"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

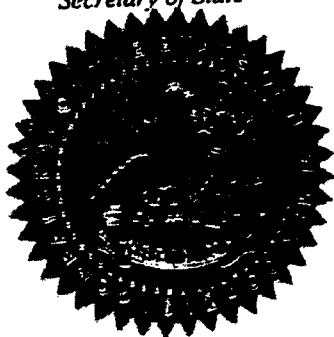
Attest:

Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
24th day of February, 2005.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Bill Richardson
Governor





State of
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 5, 2005

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and


WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is a day to remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, and to recognize those who have returned safely home to their family and friends; we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and the families who mourn their loss; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, and this year's theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee," allows us an opportunity to celebrate our freedoms and America's great tradition of prayer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.discovernd.com

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer has been a part of our nation's history since first being proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation asking Americans to set aside April 30th as a day to "confess national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness," and

WHEREAS, such a day has been observed nationally since 1952 when Congress and President Harry S. Truman provided for a National Day of Prayer "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation;" and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation designating that a National Day of Prayer is to be observed on the first Thursday of every May was unanimously ratified by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to citizens of many faiths, and prayer has long been a positive force that unites our citizens and serves as a source of inspiration and hope to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 5, 2005 with the theme "God shed His grace on thee;" and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to observe a Day of Prayer in Ohio as a time when all citizens may acknowledge our blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the continuing need for strong positive values to guide our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB TAFT, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate the day of May 5, 2005 as

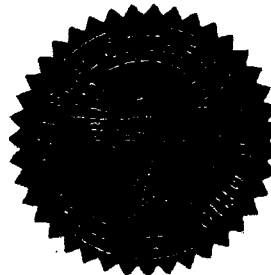
A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Ohio, which stands as an apt companion to our state motto, "With God All Things Are Possible."

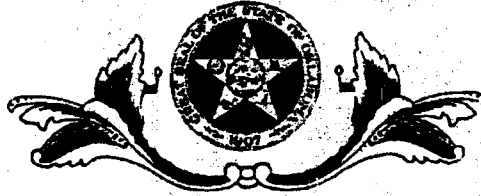
On this 5th day of May, 2005;

Bob Taft

Bob Taft
Governor



STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Duplicate

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

Whereas, in 1988 the United States Congress set aside the first Thursday of each May as a National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, Americans of diverse faiths and backgrounds share the cherished freedoms of religious expression and observance; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that we in Oklahoma observe a day when all of us in our communities may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them while recognizing our need for the strengthening of spiritual and moral values in our land; and

Whereas, the 2005 theme for the National Day of Prayer is "God Shed His Grace on Thee." Given the tragic disasters and the challenging times that test our country, it can be a comfort to turn to God for faith, repentance, support, healing, protection and guidance; and

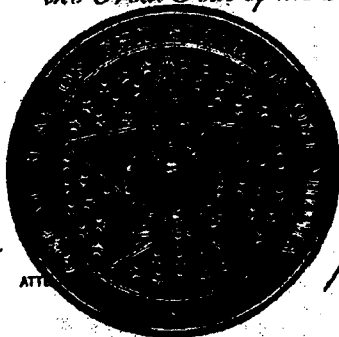
Whereas, prayer reminds us that God is our refuge and strength in troubled times;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

"A Day of Prayer"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 4th day of March in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and five and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-second year.

M. Susan Lovey

SECRETARY OF STATE
Pls Rsp Req POD 118

Brad Henry

GOVERNOR

(54)



PROCLAMATION

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer, and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer, and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

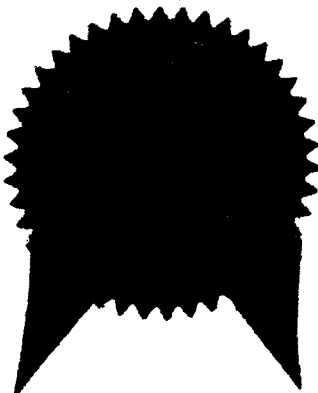
WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 54th annual National Day of Prayer, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this symbolic event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim, May 5, 2005, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 29th day of March 2005.

Bob R. L.
Governor Bob Riley

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by **Frank H. Murkowski, Governor**

National Day of Prayer is a day to reflect on the power of prayer in our lives. Nancy and I are often called upon to join Alaskans in prayer as an offering of thanksgiving, of celebration, of grief, and of hope. Prayer gives us something meaningful and personal to do on behalf of those we love and care about.

As a nation, we have offered our collective prayers for each other on 9-11; as a state, we prayed for the family of our first fallen Alaskan who served in Iraq; and as individuals, we pray daily for the hope of a better tomorrow.

The National Day of Prayer is a long-standing tradition that began with the first Continental Congress on July 20, 1775. On May 5, 1988, President Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

On May 5, 2005, I urge you to join millions of Americans across racial, political, and denominational boundaries to observe our National Day of Prayer.

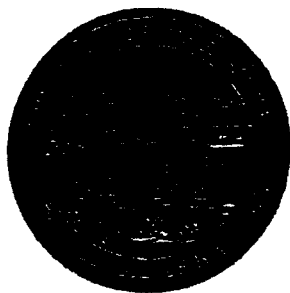
On this day, please pray for our national leaders, for our state and local leaders, for those engaged in missions of peacekeeping around our world, for those in need, and for peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as:

National Day of Prayer

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to observe this day in prayer.

Dated: April 21, 2005



A handwritten signature of Frank H. Murkowski in black ink.

*Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

PROCLAMATION

In 1795, George Washington proclaimed a public day of thanksgiving and prayer, calling on his fellow citizens to recognize the bounty of freedom and seek guidance, protection and blessings for our great land.

Since the dawn of our nation's history, our people defined this country in terms of both human liberty and spiritual freedom. Our founding fathers conceived of a country whose citizens responsibly use their God-given rights. This principle is the cornerstone of democracy and has resulted in a nation of unmatched freedom and dazzling diversity.

With the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness comes a weighty responsibility to use those rights for a greater good. The American people have a deep understanding of the true value of democracy and freedom – an understanding which springs from our epic struggle for racial equality and the vigilance required to defend our rights. Throughout our storied past, our nation has been a beacon for millions in pursuit of political, economic, academic and spiritual sovereignty. Immigrants have come to the United States seeking not just emancipation from persecution and intolerance, but also freedom for the right of self-determination.

On May 5, Californians of every religious denomination gather in prayer, an act shared by all religions. Prayer enables us to rejoice in our liberties and give thanks for the abundance we have enjoyed throughout our history. We pray to acknowledge our cherished independence and express our overwhelming gratitude for those who sacrificed all to shape – and protect – our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a "Day of Prayer" in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th day of March 2005.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Cathy Mitchell in black ink.

Cathy Mitchell
ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA**

WHEREAS: Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions; and

WHEREAS: Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 5, 2005, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, God Shed His Grace on Thee; and

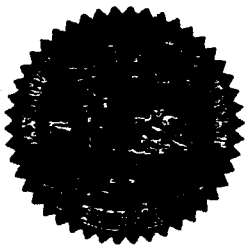
WHEREAS: Throughout this Day of Prayer, we ask the Lord to bless our President and our troops and keep them from harm as they continue to serve the Iraqi people. We ask that He bless the Iraqi people with peace and wisdom as they continue a great struggle as an emerging Democracy, and we ask that He bless the countless people still living in fear without freedom; and

WHEREAS: We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that He watch over them as they watch over us; and

WHEREAS: We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers, many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28th of March in the year of our Lord two thousand five.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
John R. Winters
CHIEF OF STAFF


State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1775; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1789, THE END OF A LONG, WEARYING REVOLUTIONARY WAR MARKED A TEMPORARY END TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER; AND

WHEREAS, REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS; AND

WHEREAS, THIS NATION HAS FERVENTLY SOUGHT DIVINE GUIDANCE AS IT CHARTED WHAT HAS NOW BECOME THE PATH OF AMERICAN HISTORY;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 5, 2005, AS


NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA, AND CALL UPON CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THIS DAY IN HIS OR HER OWN SPECIAL WAY.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED, DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND FIVE.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


CHESTER J. GULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF KANSAS



**PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR**

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 54th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, observed the first Thursday of every May, since President Harry Truman officially established an annual, national day of prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Each community of faith deserves the recognition, respect, and protection of all others; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings, express gratitude for them, support our troops and pray for peace;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a

National Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 4th day of
March, A.D. 2005

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas.
Handwritten signature of Ron Sturdivant, Secretary of State.
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

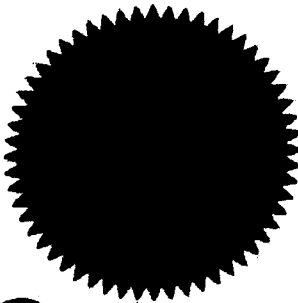
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer.

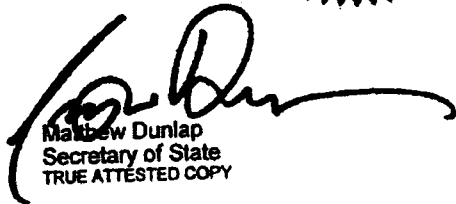
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2005 as

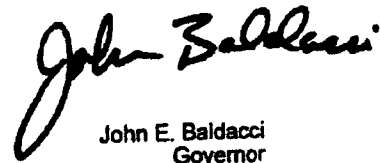
A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this first day of April in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Five.


Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY


John E. Baldacci
Governor

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 5, 2005

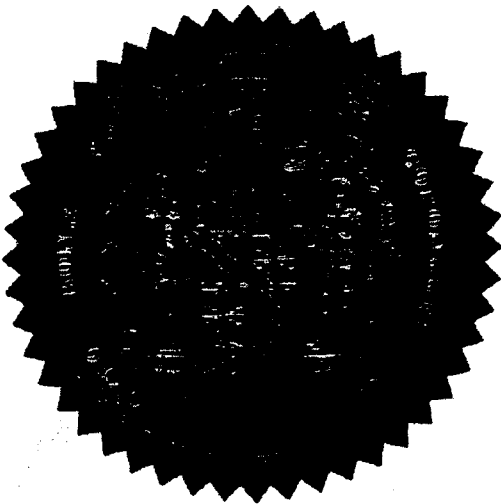
WHEREAS, *In 1952, Congress called upon President Truman to proclaim a Day of Prayer nationwide. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *Prayer can play a valuable and productive role in strengthening bonds of understanding, tolerance, friendship and unity among all people; and*

WHEREAS, *Marylanders cherish our heritage of religious freedom and throughout our State and the Nation events will take place to celebrate and honor the National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *Maryland is pleased to join in recognizing the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,

this 5th day of May

Four Thousand and five

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Nicholas S. Stiles
Lt. Governor

R. Karl Fausch
Secretary of State

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

A Day of Prayer

Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

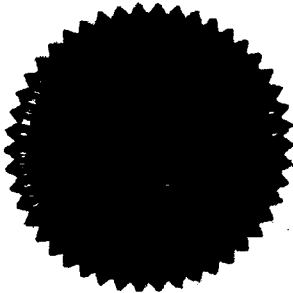
Whereas, In Michigan we are fortunate to have been blessed by our Creator with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests and a people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all our citizens; and,

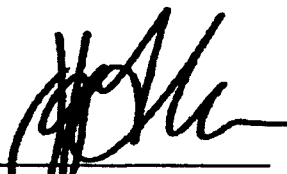
Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge their beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we as a society and nation face here at home and throughout the world, and to rededicate ourselves to helping others, strengthening our personal faith and joining with His divine plan to spread hope, peace and love among all people; and,

Whereas, The observance also encourages Americans to affirm our nation's spiritual roots and enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and now therefore be it

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, A Day of Prayer in Michigan.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



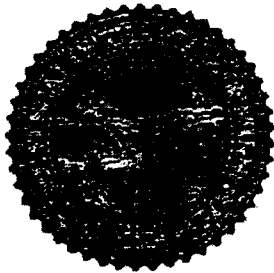
STATE of MINNESOTA

- WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state that enjoys so many blessings: natural beauty, abundant resources, strong families, a diversified economy, native peoples, and immigrants from all over the world; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is challenged by the pervasive enemies of humankind: poverty, sickness, hunger, injustice, prejudice, discouragement, greed, crime, and alienation; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesotans have always had high standards of excellence, justice, generosity, freedom, equality, and progress and have faced their problems with resolve; and
- WHEREAS: We know our state has been strengthened by the conscience-based actions of people of faith in all walks of life; and
- WHEREAS: We know many of the challenges we face require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about; and
- WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins with these words, "We the people of the state of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5, 2005, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and to seek strength, wisdom and encouragement to build a better Minnesota for all our people.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and five, and of the State the one hundred forty-sixth.


GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, In 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

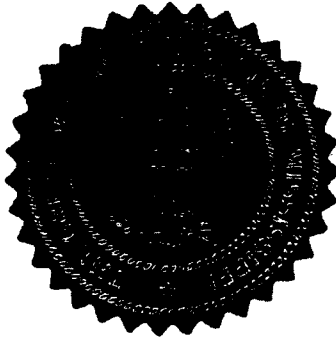
WHEREAS, In these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the fifty-fourth observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 5th, 2005, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

May 2005

National Day of Prayer
Box 15616
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616

Dear friends:

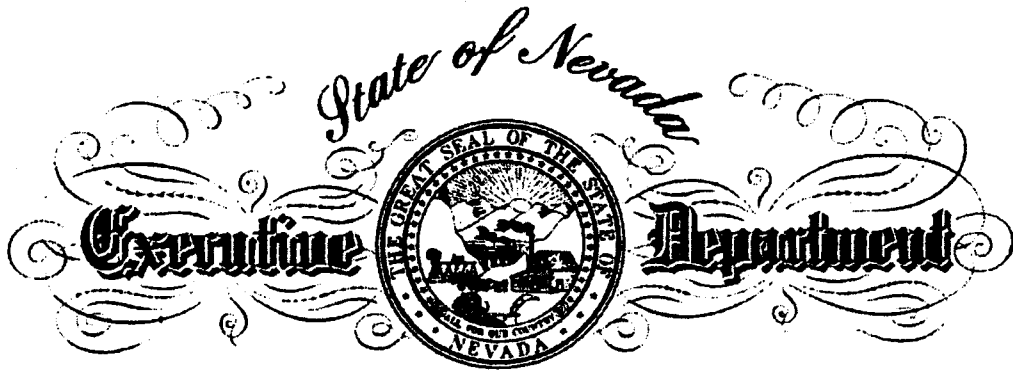
I am pleased to join Montanans of every faith in recognition of the 2005 National Day of Prayer. This event is an opportunity to recognize the wonderful diversity of religious belief across America and Montana and should serve to unite people of faith from every culture and tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer".

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

STATE CAPITOL • P.O. BOX 200801 • HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801
TELEPHONE: 406-444-3111 • FAX: 406-444-5529 • WEBSITE: WWW.MT.GOV



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada will join together with the entire country on May 5, 2005, to celebrate the 54th Annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald W. Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May every year; and

WHEREAS, each year, the President of the United States signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day, and in 2004, state governors and the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2005 National Day of Prayer is "God Shed His Grace on Thee"; and

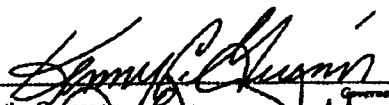

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada recognizes this very special day, and joins with Americans across the nation in support of the 54th National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KENNY C. GUINN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

A DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 17th day of February 2005.


By the Governor _____

Secretary of State

By _____
Deputy



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civil prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 5, 2005, marks the 54th Annual National Day of Prayer with this year's theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD J. CODEY, Acting Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

MAY 5, 2005

as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fifth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand five and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

Richard J. Codey

ACTING GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

REGINA L. THOMAS,
SECRETARY OF STATE



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to look to the Almighty for wisdom in the formation of a nation, praying has remained as important a part of the lives of Americans as during the early days of our Country's rise to greatness, and the faith of our founding fathers has had a significant role in American history, long inspiring us to seek God's Blessings through such traditions as national days of prayer; and

Whereas, for 236 years, this call to prayer has been echoed throughout history by such leaders as President Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," and President Truman, who in 1951 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, it was seventeen years ago, in 1988, that President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the *National Day of Prayer*; and

Whereas, this year's *Day of Prayer* celebrates the theme "God Shed His Grace on Thee" as inspired by Hebrews 4:16 and the encouragement found in these words: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" and these words give us cause to reflect upon the strength of America and its people who are united by their common love of freedom and their belief and trust in the Almighty, as we keep in mind recent global events, threats to our security, and the challenges of the war in which we are presently engaged; and

Whereas, in considering the blessings of life in this great Nation, we are thankful for the rewards that democracy brings and the values we hold highest - these cherished principles continue to serve as the foundation of our union, drawing all of us together for the 54th annual *Day of Prayer*, which will be observed in churches, synagogues, statehouses, halls of government, other public venues - and within our homes - by people and entire communities across this Nation; and

Whereas, during these uncertain times and in the aftermath of tragic losses suffered by our State and Nation, it is fitting that New Yorkers join with people of all faiths to honor the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness based upon religiously-inspired values and an enduring belief in religious freedom and all freedoms upon which this Nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2005 as a

Day of Prayer

in the Empire State.



Done under my hand and the Great Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth day of April in the year two thousand five.

George E. Pataki
Governor

John P. Cahill
Secretary to the Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OREGON



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: On April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS: Many of our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS: Prayer can reflect many common virtues, bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 5, 2005 to be

DAY OF PRAYER

In Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, March 31, 2005.



Theodore R. Kulongoski

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Bill Bradbury

Bill Bradbury, Secretary of State

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

DAY OF PRAYER

May 5, 2005

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideas of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom and assistance; and

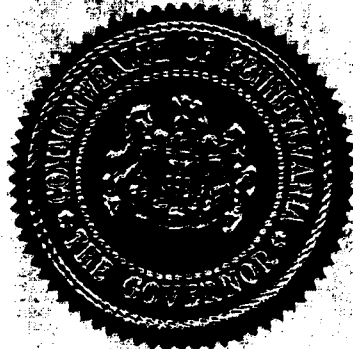
WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, guidance, and protection for our families, government leaders, civil servants, and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty, and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man, and the right to individual religious expression.

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the adversity that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right and of the progressive individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of age, race, gender, or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that this nation uphold the fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to seek personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget or neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation, and personal reflection.

THEREFORE, In recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought or giving thanks.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and five, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Boletín
Administrativo
Núm.: P.2005-091

*Proclama
del Gobernador
del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico*

Día de la Oración

POR CUANTO: El Gobierno del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico conmemora el "Día de la Oración" en afirmación de la política pública que salvaguarda la calidad de vida de los ciudadanos en nuestro país;

POR CUANTO: La conmemoración del "Día de la Oración" propicia la ocasión para exhortar a nuestros conciudadanos a la reflexión respecto a los valores y las virtudes humanas que promueven la convivencia armoniosa, la paz y la unidad familiar para el logro de una vida plena con nuestros hermanos y familiares;

POR CUANTO: El objetivo de esta conmemoración, asimismo, propicia el reconocimiento a las diversas entidades públicas y privadas que colaboran en la educación espiritual y la reflexión por el cumplimiento cabal de su servicio trascendental al contribuir a la justicia social en beneficio del pueblo de Puerto Rico;

POR TANTO : YO, ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ, Gobernador del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, en virtud de la autoridad que me confieren la Constitución y las Leyes de Puerto Rico, proclamo el 5 de mayo de 2005, DÍA DE LA ORACIÓN. Al así hacerlo, exhorto al pueblo de Puerto Rico, a las entidades públicas y privadas, e igualmente, a los medios de comunicación, a manifestar la solidaridad que amerita esta conmemoración de eminente interés público.



EN TESTIMONIO DE LO CUAL, firmo la presente y hago estampar en ella el Gran Sello del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, en la Ciudad de San Juan, hoy, 1 de marzo de 2005.


ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ

Promulgada de acuerdo con la Ley, hoy, 1 de marzo de 2005.


MARISARA PONT MARCHESE
Secretaria de Estado



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

May 5, 2005

as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 5th day of May 2005.



Donald L. Carcieri

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Matthew A. Brown

Matthew A. Brown
Secretary of State

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

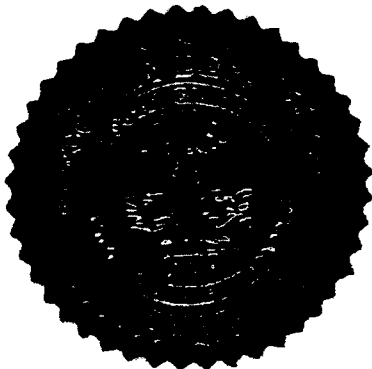
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders, while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the first Continental Congress in 1774, and

Whereas The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made the laws of Nature and of Nature's God the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have unalienable rights that are God-given, and

Whereas The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of both Legislatures to begin their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin their sessions each day with prayer, and

Whereas in 1985 legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress, and signed by President Ronald Reagan, and

Whereas The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wisdom to the United States and her citizens, and

Whereas it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota, when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation, and

Whereas The 2005 theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee" was chosen to reaffirm the importance of maintaining the moral underpinnings that have been fundamental to our society since America's inception, and

Now, Therefore, I, *M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

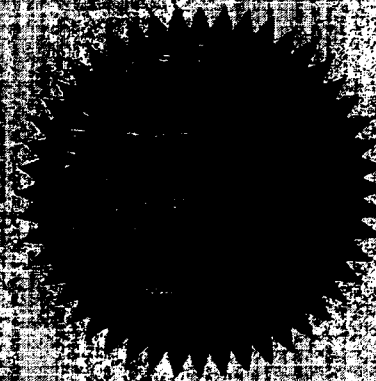
in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State





STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, many of our leaders have always turned to prayer in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, legislation was passed unanimously in 1988 by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan setting aside the first Thursday in May of each year as a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Congress has declared Thursday, May 5, 2005 as the 54th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, I join with our President and the Governors of the United States, and invite Tennesseans of faith to join in prayer for our nation and our state,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5, 2005, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

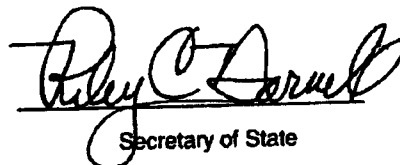
in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 22nd day of March, 2005.



Governor



Secretary of State

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were frequently united in observance of prayer; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Vermont may wish to join in observance of the National Day of Prayer in the hope that problems, both within our nation and overseas, may be peacefully resolved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby proclaim **May 5, 2005**, as a

DAY OF PRAYER


in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 0th day of March, A.D. 2005.

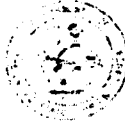


James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:



Neale F. Lunderville
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TOWN PARLIAMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and stems from the understanding that faith is a fundamental part of our Nation's social fabric; and

WHEREAS in 1952, the Congress of the United States of America adopted a Resolution to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May of each year as a "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"; and

WHEREAS National Day of Prayer has been held annually ever since, and this year marks the 54th Annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS National Day of Prayer is observed to promote the need for prayer in today's society, to give thanks for blessings received, and to instill good ideas and values in the people of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS we must all band together to acknowledge our dependence on God, to promote religious beliefs in whatever sect, creed or religion you may be a member of; and

WHEREAS faith is of the utmost importance and along with hope and charity must never be lost, for these are the backbones of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles W. Turnbull, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5th, 2005 as "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" in the United States Virgin Islands. I call upon all residents of the Territory to join with me in observing the occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 5th day of April, A.D., 2005.



Charles W. Turnbull
CHARLES W. TURNBULL
GOVERNOR

Atty
ATTEST:
Vargrave Richards
VARGRAVE RICHARDS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

WHEREAS, our nation celebrates the 53rd anniversary of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as the

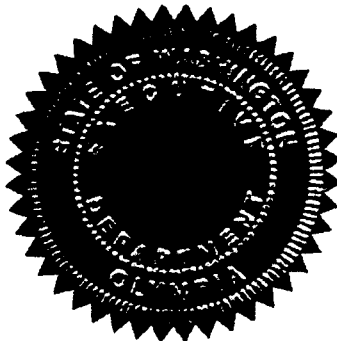
Day of Prayer

in Washington state, in keeping with the wishes of the Congress of the United States, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 25th day of January, 2005

Christine O. Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire



Proclamation
by
Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and benevolent God upon our government and people; and,

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard and who strongly desire to preserve their state's heritage; and,

Whereas, joining in common prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and,

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with a unified expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention in the preservation and continuation of strong religious principles upon which our nation and our state have been established;

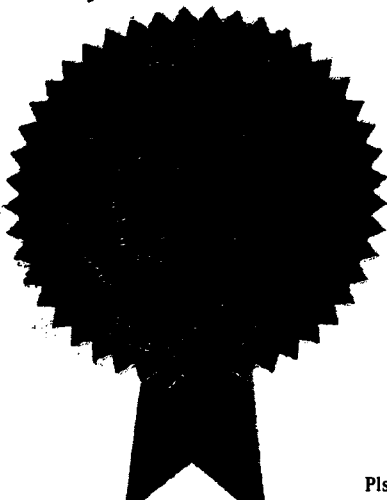
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 5, 2005*, as:

A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join in a national effort to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Five, and in the One Hundred Forty-second year of the State.





Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:



Betty Ireland
Secretary of State

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, prayer is a vital part of our heritage as one nation under God; and

WHEREAS, God has promised to answer us when we call upon Him and has promised that when we keep the commands of the Lord our God and walk in his ways, He will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on our land in season and to bless all the work of our hands; and

WHEREAS, we humbly acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness to His promises and for His provision; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming have turned to God in prayer as our military sacrificially defends our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed Joint Resolution 382 on April 17, 1952 establishing an annual national day of prayer to join together as a nation acknowledging God in prayer each year; and

WHEREAS, President Truman signed into law, PL 324, the observance of an annual National Day of Prayer and President Reagan permanently established the first Thursday of May to the National Day of Prayer when he signed PL 100-307; and

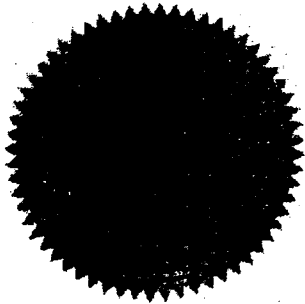
WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "Let Freedom Ring" based on Leviticus 25:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in Wyoming, and urge our citizens to join with me in prayer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto ^{set} my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 18 day of February, 2005.





Governor

EXHIBIT 18

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, America was founded on the principles of religious faith and freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance and comfort where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings that God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 53rd Anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme "Let Freedom Ring," based on Leviticus 25:10 "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."; and

WHEREAS, across our nation on May 6, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal and moral values, and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to heal and unite our nation and state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Arkansas and urge all residents to pray with diligence, humility and obedience and seek the face of Almighty God to direct our paths in the days and years ahead.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of March, in the year of our Lord 2004.



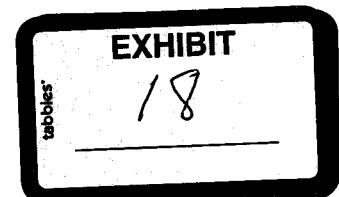
Mike Huckabee

MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR

Charlie Daniels

CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE

(1)





JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

National Day of Prayer

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort, and protection where needed and have given thanks for our many blessings which God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, prayer is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit; and

WHEREAS, prayer has comforted us in times of sorrow and given us strength and hope for the future. We ask God to keep His hand upon us and bless the great State of Florida and the United States of America; and

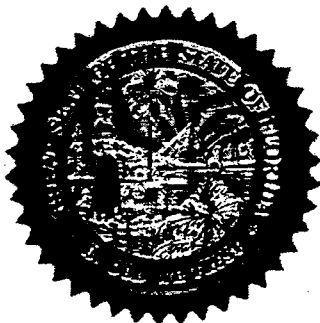
WHEREAS, we continue to give thanks for the men and women of the military that are defending freedom, and we humbly ask God for their protection and pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the *National Day of Prayer* is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

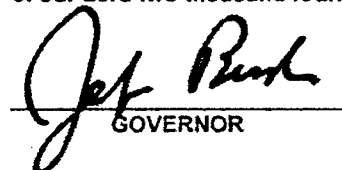
WHEREAS, this year is the 53rd anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the *National Day of Prayer*, with this year's theme, "Let Freedom Ring," based on Leviticus 25:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants"; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2004, Americans across our nation and state will unite at specific times in prayer to acknowledge our dependence upon God, give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, recognize our need for personal and corporate repentance and renewal and invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and blessings to all observing May 6, 2004, as *National Day of Prayer*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
the State of Florida to be affixed
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
26th day of February in the year
of our Lord two thousand four.


GOVERNOR

3



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, with nearly every nation and a variety of religious traditions being represented; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God whether the need be great or small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that almighty being, who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." – George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the almighty disposer of events – to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's god." – William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour. I humbly urge that we take time to pray – to really pray." – Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the divine being." – Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." – Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer. Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "Righteousness Exalts A Nation", a reaffirmation for the biblical exhortation in Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.




IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this sixth day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-eighth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred fourteen.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE

4



STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

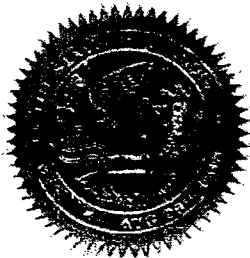
Proclamation

WHEREAS, in times of peril both at home and abroad, some American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and
 WHEREAS, these citizens ask for divine protection and blessing upon our land; and
 WHEREAS, established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and
 WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment; and
 WHEREAS, the theme for the National Day of Prayer 2004 is Let Freedom Ring, inspired by the passage found in Leviticus 25:10: "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.";

THEREFORE, I, Rod Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this TWENTY-SIXTH day of MARCH, in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
FOUR, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and EIGHTY-SIXTH



Dease White
 SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich
 GOVERNOR

5

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
State of Louisiana
Governor
Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the historical record of the United States, as acknowledged by the highest court in our land, reveals a clear and unmistakable pattern woven throughout our nation's 228 years: America was founded upon the principles and truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, as a nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage, prayer has been and remains an essential element of our national conduct as we seek divine direction and blessing; and

WHEREAS, our nation's leaders, beginning with our first President, George Washington, to our current president, George W. Bush, have called upon Americans to individually and corporately pray for and seek God's divine blessing upon our nation in both times of peace and in times of conflict; and

WHEREAS, in times of great crisis we have been prompted by officially proclaimed days of prayer to ask for God's guidance; and

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture instructs us in Leviticus 25:10 to proclaim liberty to all the land (Let Freedom Ring); and

WHEREAS, in 2004, on the 53rd Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, America once again finds herself in the midst of danger and uncertainty making it essential that we as a people seek God's direction through prayer so that our world might enjoy peace.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all of the citizens of Louisiana to participate in seeking God's blessing both upon our state and our nation.



Attest By
The Governor

Joseph S. Keithen
Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 23rd day of February
A. D., 2004

Kathleen B. Blanco
Governor of Louisiana

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

2004

- WHEREAS:* The tradition of a National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by an act of Congress, and since become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and
- WHEREAS:* Each American has the freedom to worship and pray as he or she desires; and
- WHEREAS:* This day provides all Massachusetts citizens the opportunity to join together and be thankful for their blessings; and
- WHEREAS:* The National Day of Prayer Task Force is inviting people to embrace prayer and renew their commitment to our moral and spiritual heritage in 2004 with the theme, "Let Freedom Ring"; and
- WHEREAS:* The inspiration for this year's theme was found in Leviticus 25:10, "proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITT ROMNEY, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 6th, 2004, to be

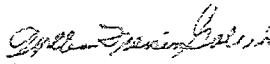
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN MASSACHUSETTS

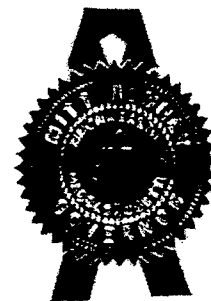
and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth

By His Excellency the Governor


MITT ROMNEY


WILLIAM F. GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri
Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, the 53rd observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 6, 2004, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

and WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "Let Freedom Ring";

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks on this occasion for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the Almighty will continue to bless this nation and protect its people and principles from the enemies of democracy; and

WHEREAS, the scripture states that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge we are all God's handiwork, and we should feel free to call upon Him in prayer:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB HOLDEN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 25th day of February, 2004.



Bob Holden

Governor

Attest: *Matt Blunt*

Secretary of State

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and

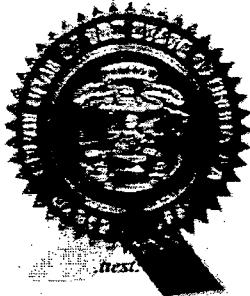
WHEREAS, This year marks the 53rd Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "Let Freedom Ring" reflecting the words in Leviticus 25:10: "... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Johanns, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, the 6th day of May, 2004, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Four.



Jan D. Luce
Secretary of State

Mike Johanns
Governor



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to look to the Almighty for wisdom in the formation of a nation, praying has remained as important a part of the lives of Americans as during the early days of our Country's rise to greatness, and the faith of our founding fathers has had a significant role in American history, long inspiring us to seek God's Blessings through such traditions as national days of prayer; and

Whereas, for more than 225 years, the call to prayer has been echoed throughout history by such leaders as President Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," and President Truman, who in 1952 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, it was sixteen years ago, in 1988, that President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the *National Day of Prayer*; and

Whereas, this year's *Day of Prayer* celebrates the patriotic theme of "Let Freedom Ring" and invokes Leviticus 25:10, reminding us to "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" and these words give us cause to reflect upon the strength of America and its people who are united by a common love of freedom, and their belief and trust in the Almighty, as we keep in mind recent global events, dangerous threats to our freedom, and the challenges of the war in which our country is presently engaged; and

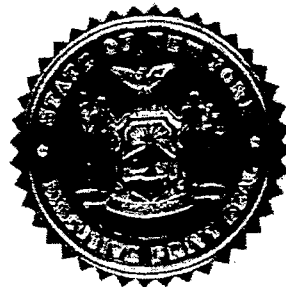
Whereas, in considering the blessings of life in this great Nation, we are thankful for the rewards that democracy brings and the values we hold highest - these cherished principles continue to serve as the foundation of our union, drawing all of us together for the 53rd annual *Day of Prayer*, which will be observed in churches, synagogues, statehouses, halls of government, other public venues - and within our homes - by people and entire communities across this Nation; and

Whereas, during these uncertain times and in the aftermath of tragic losses suffered by our State and Nation, it is fitting that New Yorkers join with people of all faiths to honor the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness based upon religiously-inspired values and an enduring belief in religious freedom and all freedoms upon which this Nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim May 6, 2004 as a

Day of Prayer

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eleventh day of March in the year two thousand four.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor

10

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2004

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

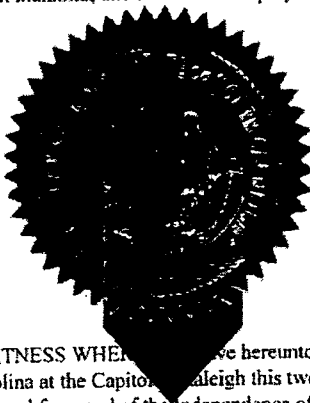
WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 6, 2004, marks the 53rd consecutive observance of the *National Day of Prayer*, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, it is good that we acknowledge that we are all God's handiwork and that it is appropriate to call upon Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, "Let Freedom Ring... Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land to all its Inhabitants" is the theme for the 2004 *National Day of Prayer*; ||

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work, and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind, and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth. ||



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Throughout our nation, during times of strength and weakness and moments of joy and despair, many people turn to prayer and reflection to seek comfort, give thanks, and ask for guidance.

Since the Continental Congress' first declaration of a day of prayer in 1775, the people of the United States have regularly gathered to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders.

On Thursday, May 6, 2004, we are asked to join together as a state and a nation in prayer on the 53rd Annual National Day of Prayer. The theme of this year's event is, "Let Freedom Ring," which is based on Leviticus 25:10, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." This message of freedom reminds us that our Constitution has provided us with certain religious and personal rights – the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray.

I encourage Texans on this national day of prayer to express their gratitude for the many liberties and blessings we have received, to share their joy with other citizens of this great state and nation, and to ask for guidance as we continue to protect our freedoms with diligence and integrity.

I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004,

A Day of Prayer

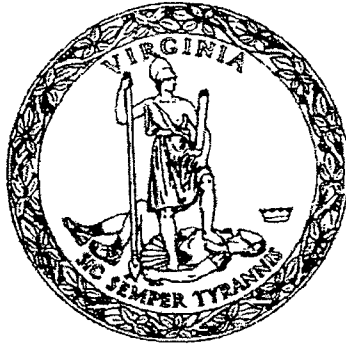


in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 4th day of March, 2004.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

(12)



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout our Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775 and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's day of prayer, *Let Freedom Ring*, is inspired by Leviticus 25:10 of the Old Testament, which offers the challenge to "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants," and among the liberties granted to all Virginians and Americans are the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship and the freedom to pray; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Day of Prayer is recognized by Virginians and Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer for our loved ones and for our enemies, and to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize May 6, 2004, as VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner

Anita A. Rindler



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, May 6, 2004 marks the 53rd consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer in cities and towns throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "Let Freedom Ring" // Leviticus 25:10..."proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants;" and

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.



By the Governor

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have herunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this thirteenth day of February in the year two thousand four

Jim Doyle

JIM DOYLE

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, prayer is a vital part of our heritage as one nation under God; and

WHEREAS, God has promised to answer us when we call upon Him and has promised that when we keep the commands of the Lord our God and walk in his ways, He will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on our land in season and to bless all the work of our hands; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming gathered together in prayer for our state and its leaders; God has blessed the state of Wyoming with a \$1.2 billion surplus; the snowpacks of Wyoming are above recent year's levels; and, God did this so that we would always have respect for the Lord our God; and

WHEREAS, we humbly acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness to His promises and for His provision; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming have turned to God in prayer as our military sacrificially defends our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed Joint Resolution 382 on April 17, 1952 establishing an annual national day of prayer to join together as a nation acknowledging God in prayer each year; and

WHEREAS, President Truman signed into law, PL 324, the observance of an annual National Day of Prayer and President Reagan permanently established the first Thursday of May to the National Day of Prayer when he signed PL 100-307; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "Let Freedom Ring" based on Leviticus 25:10, "I will proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." //


NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

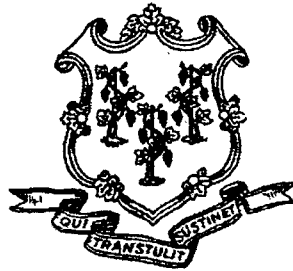
in Wyoming, and urge our citizens to join with me in prayer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 10th day of March, 2004.




Governor

State of



Connecticut

By His Excellency JOHN G. ROWLAND, Governor: a

PROCLAMATION

May 6, 2004 marks the 53rd annual observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme of this year's nationwide celebration is "Let Freedom Ring."

In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress, and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May.

It is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our nation and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort, which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception.

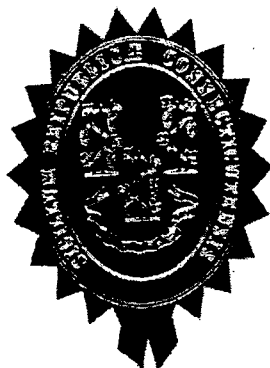
As caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

Therefore, I, JOHN G. ROWLAND, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 6, 2004 as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, this twenty-fourth day of February, two thousand and four and of the independence of the United States the two hundred twenty-eighth.



by His Excellency's Command

Secretary of the State

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF A DAY OF PRAYER

Whereas, it is noteworthy that at our country's inception there was a clear mandate to protect citizens' religious freedom and to create an atmosphere where prayer in the public square was not only acceptable, but embraced; and

Whereas, this year's National Day of Prayer theme, "Let Freedom Ring" allows us the opportunity to punctuate the importance of vigilance in maintaining the cherished rights that undergird American life: the freedom to gather and worship and to pray according to the dictates of their conscience; and

Whereas, in his first inaugural address, George Washington related, "it would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of the nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defeat, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States"; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer; and

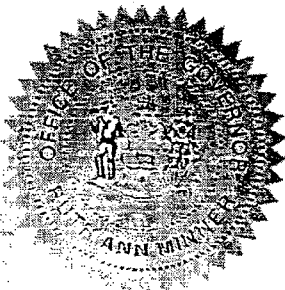
Whereas, National Day of Prayer observances are planned in all 50 states and territories, a tradition which was established in 1952 by an act of Congress and since has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

Whereas, the First State has led the nation in so many other areas, it is proper and fitting that Delaware lead in encouraging and recognizing those who look for answers to problems, while seeking comfort through prayer.

Now, Therefore, We, Ruth Ann Minner, Governor, and John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor, do hereby declare May 6, 2004,

A DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Delaware, and invite our fellow citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, and in various meeting places to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind. We ask our creator to give wisdom and favor to our leaders, bless our nation with peace and the joy of working together to provide health, prosperity, and freedom for our children and our children's children.



Ruth Ann Minner
Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

John C. Carney, Jr.
John C. Carney, Jr., Lieutenant Governor

04-125
Number

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

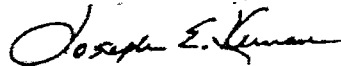
To ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

- WHEREAS, days of prayer have been part of our nation's tradition since 1775 and, in 1988, Congress unanimously designated the first Thursday of every May as a National Day of Prayer; and
- WHEREAS, the National Association for Prayer has designated the first week in May 2004 as Prayer Week, with the theme, "Let Freedom Ring;" and
- WHEREAS, as part of this national celebration, a number of states across the nation will recognize the power of prayer by participating in events to bring citizens together to pray for our schools, local communities and country; and
- WHEREAS, this time has been set aside to give thanks for the many blessings our state has received; and
- WHEREAS, it is fitting that we focus on the need for compassion, healing and reconciliation in our communities;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. KERNAN, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004,

DAY OF PRAYER in INDIANA

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to join me in working for peace and unity for all people.

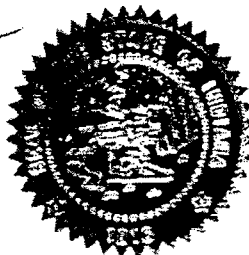
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 16th day of February, 2004.



BY THE GOVERNOR: Joseph E. Kernan
Governor of Indiana



ATTEST: Todd Rokita
Secretary of State



The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 6, 2004**

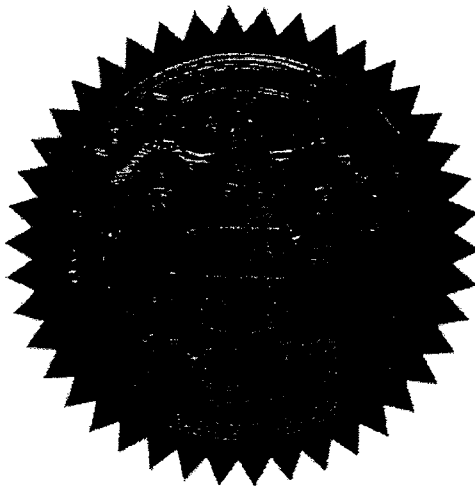
WHEREAS, *In 1952, Congress called upon the President to proclaim a Day of Prayer nationwide. This year marks the 53rd observance of this national tradition; and*

WHEREAS, *"Let Freedom Ring" is the theme for this year's National Day of Prayer. Prayer can play a valuable and productive role in strengthening bonds of understanding, tolerance, friendship and unity among all people; and*

WHEREAS, *Marylanders cherish our heritage of religious freedom and throughout our State and the Nation events will take place to celebrate National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS, *Maryland is pleased to recognize the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,

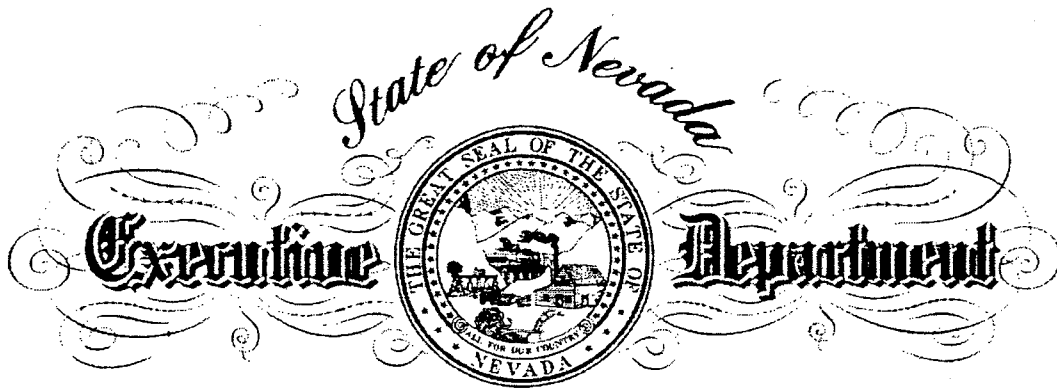
6th day of May

Two thousand and four

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

R. Karl Auman
Secretary of State



A Proclamation by the Governor

Whereas, May 6, 2004, marks the 53rd annual National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

Whereas, the law was amended in 1988 and signed by President Reagan which designated the first Thursday of May of each year as a National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, on May 6, 2004, the National Day of Prayer observance in Nevada will provide an opportunity for Nevadans to join with all Americans across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in an acknowledgement of our profound freedom to intercede in prayer on behalf of our nation; and

Whereas, because the theme of the 2004 National Day of Prayer is "Let Freedom Ring," we encourage the citizens of our Great State of Nevada to include in their prayers a plea for the well being of our state and nation;

Now, Therefore, I, Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of the State of Nevada, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

A DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA

In recognition of the National Day of Prayer which was established by the Congress of the United States of America.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 11th day of February, 2004.

Kenny C. Guinn
By the Governor: _____ Governor
Alan Heller
Secretary of State

By _____ Deputy

A PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 6, 2004, "DAY OF PRAYER" IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

WHEREAS, New Hampshire wishes to join with other states and the federal government in acknowledging the importance of prayer in the lives of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Day of Prayer is "Let Freedom Ring," symbolizing the freedom we enjoy as American citizens, including the freedom to worship according to the dictates of our conscience; and

WHEREAS, in times of uncertainty, people have used prayer as a way to find both strength and courage in themselves and in the world around them; and

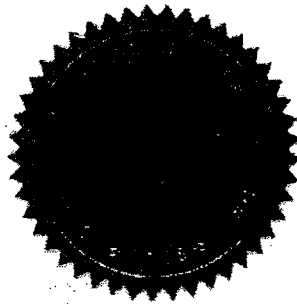
WHEREAS, in times of prosperity, people have used prayer as a means to give thanks for their good fortune and for their freedom as citizens of the United States and of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, for many of our citizens, prayer provides solace: a way to connect with one's self and determine those things that are important in their lives; and

WHEREAS, since 1952, the nation has celebrated the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, this is the 53rd observance of this important day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CRAIG BENSON, GOVERNOR of the state of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim MAY 6, 2004, as DAY OF PRAYER in New Hampshire. I urge Granite State residents to consider the importance of prayer in the lives of millions of Americans, and for those that wish to take time to pray in accordance to their belief.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and four, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and twenty-eight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig R. Benson".

Craig R. Benson
Governor of New Hampshire

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 6, 2004, marks the 53rd Annual National Day of Prayer with this year's theme, "Let Freedom Ring";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES E. MCGREEVEY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

MAY 6, 2004

as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand four and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

James E. McGreevey

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Regena L. Thomas

REGENA L. THOMAS,
SECRETARY OF STATE

22



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called upon our citizens to reaffirm annually our religious convictions by recognizing a "National Day of Prayer;" and

WHEREAS, as our nation has grown and flourished, our government has welcomed divine guidance in its work, while respecting the rich and varied faiths of all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders, as far back as Abraham Lincoln have acknowledged the need for a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, in a country built by the people from hundreds of nations with as many beliefs, we rely upon our religious liberty in order to preserve the individuality and great diversity that give our nation its unique richness and strengths of character; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "Let Freedom Ring;" ||

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the 6th of May, 2004 as:

"National Day of Prayer"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

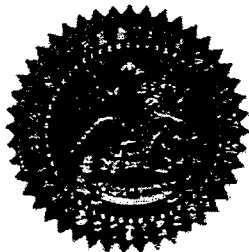
Attest:

Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State

*Done at the Executive Office this
19th day of February, 2004.*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal of
the Great State of New Mexico*

Bill Richardson
Governor



23

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer has been a part of our nation's history since first being proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation asking Americans to set aside April 30th as a day to "confess national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness;" and

WHEREAS, such a day has been observed nationally since 1952 when Congress and President Harry S. Truman provided for a National Day of Prayer "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation;" and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation designating that a National Day of Prayer is to be observed on the first Thursday of every May was unanimously ratified by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to citizens of many faiths, and prayer has long been a positive force that unites our citizens and serves as a source of inspiration and hope to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 6, 2004 with the theme "Let Freedom Ring;" and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to observe a Day of Prayer in Ohio as a time when all citizens may acknowledge our blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the continuing need for strong positive values to guide our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB TAFT, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate the day of May 6, 2004 as

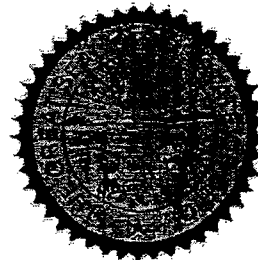
A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Ohio, which stands as an apt companion to our state motto, "With God All Things Are Possible."

On this 6th day of May, 2004:

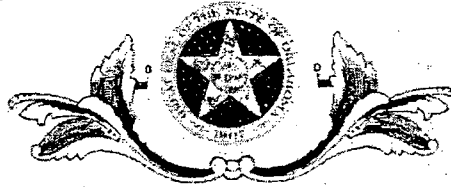
Bob Taft

Bob Taft
Governor



34

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition and important occasion first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the U.S. Congress set aside the first Thursday of each May as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 100-307); and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances"; and

WHEREAS, the right to religious liberty is stipulated in Article 1, Section 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 theme for the National Day of Prayer is, "Let Freedom Ring, the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, the freedom to pray; ||

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD HENRY, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

"A DAY OF PRAYER"

in the State of Oklahoma,

and welcome my fellow Oklahomans to pray, each after his or her own faith.

In Witness Whereof, I have herewith set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 19th day of February in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and four and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-six year

Brad Henry

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNMENT

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, with the theme "Let Freedom Ring," the 2004 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders, while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength. ||

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

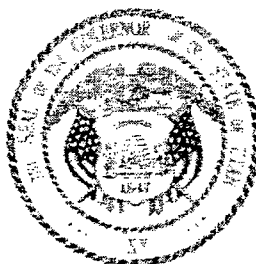
SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Olene Smith Walker

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1785, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the Congress of the United States in 1952, The National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it has charted what has now become the path of America history; and

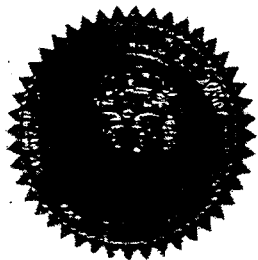
Whereas, the theme for this year's celebration is "Let Freedom Ring," a universal sentiment and hope; //

And, Therefore, I, Olene S. Walker, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare May 6, 2004, as the

National Day of Prayer

Olene S. Walker

Governor



*Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor*

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God; to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

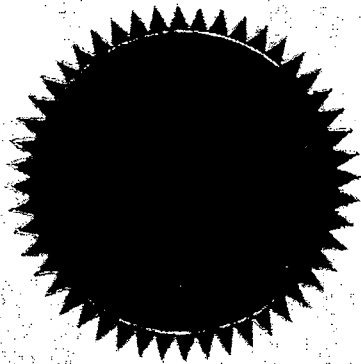
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and,

Whereas, The 2004 theme, Let Freedom Ring, inspired by the exhortation found in Leviticus 25:10: "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants"; and,

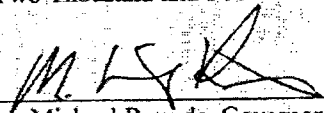
NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

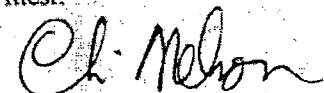
in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State



PROCLAMATION By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

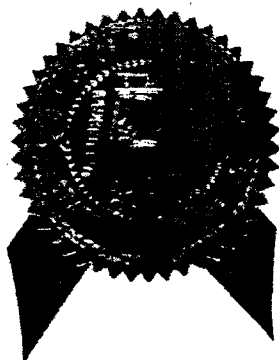
WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 53rd annual National Day of Prayer, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this symbolic event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim, May 6, 2004, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 10th day of February 2004.

Bob Riley
Governor Bob Riley

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by *Frank H. Murkowski, Governor*

The National Day of Prayer is a long-standing tradition that began with an order by the first Continental Congress, signed by John Hancock, establishing the first Day of Prayer on July 20, 1775. On May 5, 1988, an amendment to Public Law 100-307 was signed by President Ronald Reagan, setting aside the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. On May 6, 2004, Alaskans will join millions of Americans across racial, political, and denominational boundaries to observe our National Day of Prayer.

Since September 11, 2001, Americans have been led to prayer. With conflict overseas, fluctuation in our financial markets, and the constant threat of terrorism, Americans turn to prayer for comfort and protection in a time of uncertainty. We pray for those who have been lost and we pray for those who may soon be in harm's way.

On this national day of prayer, Alaskans are encouraged to be thankful for the great blessings that have been bestowed upon our nation, our state, and ourselves. Make note of the encouragement found in Psalms 107:1 "Thank the Lord because he is good and his love continues forever."

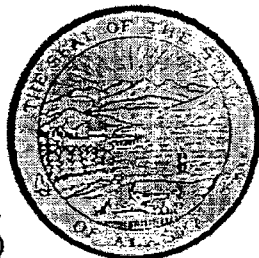
I encourage your prayer for our national leaders. I encourage your prayers for our state and local leaders. I encourage you to pray for those who may be suffering here and abroad. I encourage you to pray for peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as:

National Day of Prayer

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to observe this day in prayer and with appropriate related ceremonies and activities.

Dated: February 13, 2004



Frank H. Murkowski
Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Office of the Governor

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

WHEREAS, the religious freedom guaranteed us by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the diversity of faiths practiced in America have made our land a beacon for people who seek freedom to worship according to their conscience, and

WHEREAS, Americans of every race, background and creed come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and their own homes to pray or meditate for guidance, wisdom and courage, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona are a diverse people, with a remarkable variety of cultures and religious traditions – "many lands, many people, many faiths" – that blend into ONE ARIZONA, and

WHEREAS, just as we rely on prayer or reflection for courage, hope and renewal in our private lives, so too do we turn to prayer or reflection at times of joy, crisis and tragedy in our public life as a Nation and a State, and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-302, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer and reflection in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer, and

WHEREAS, we are especially mindful of the heroic men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those serving abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby join with the President of the United States and my fellow Governors to proclaim May 6, 2004 as a

* NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OR REFLECTION *

and encourage all Arizonans to pray or reflect on their own and give thanks for the rich blessings of our State and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Janet Napolitano
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fourteenth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Four and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twenty-eighth.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
Secretary of State





BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs, and

WHEREAS A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land, and

WHEREAS We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions, and

WHEREAS Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 1, 2004, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, Let Freedom Ring, and

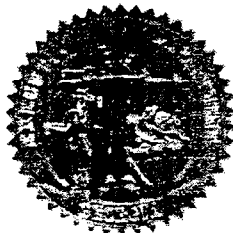
WHEREAS Throughout this Day of Prayer, we ask the Lord to bless our President and our troops and keep them from harm as they continue to free the Iraqi people. We ask that He bless the Iraqi people with peace and wisdom as they continue a great struggle toward Democracy, and we ask that He bless the countless people still living in fear without freedom, and

WHEREAS We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that He watch over them as they perform their sworn duty, and

WHEREAS We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers, many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families, now

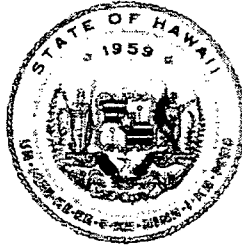
THEREFORE I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2004, as a NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand four.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

AFFEST
John R. White
CHIEF OF STAFF



Proclamation

WHEREAS, many people across the United States seek comfort and joy through prayer and fellowship, and millions will gather on May 6 for the 53rd annual National Day of Prayer with its 2004 theme "*Let Freedom Ring*"; and,

WHEREAS, this tradition was established in 1952 by an act of Congress, and since then has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and,

WHEREAS, in churches and other places of worship, Americans from across the country will come together to pray for wisdom and guidance in this troubled time; and,

WHEREAS the diverse citizens of Hawai'i seek the freedom to worship according to their own conscience; and,

WHEREAS, this fundamental right is guaranteed by our nation's First Amendment to the Constitution; and,

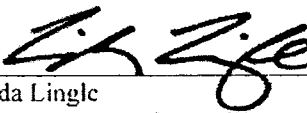
WHEREAS, this observance strives to help the people of Hawai'i draw strength from our Creator and reaffirm the importance of prayer,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, to be

HAWAI'I DAY OF PRAYER

in the Aloha State, and encourage our citizens to join in prayer on this day.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifteenth day of March 2004.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

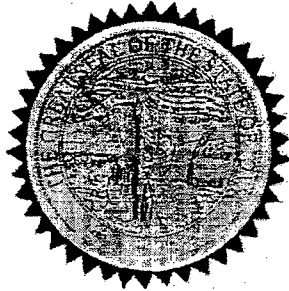
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1775; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN 1783, THE END OF A LONG, WEARYING REVOLUTIONARY WAR MARKED A TEMPORARY END TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER; AND
- WHEREAS,** REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THIS NATION HAS FERVENTLY SOUGHT DIVINE GUIDANCE AS IT CHARTED WHAT HAS NOW BECOME THE PATH OF AMERICAN HISTORY:

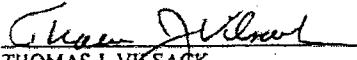
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 6, 2004, AS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA, AND CALL UPON CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THIS DAY IN HIS OR HER OWN SPECIAL WAY.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND FOUR.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 53rd consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

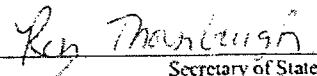
National Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 8th day of
March, A.D. 2004

BY THE GOVERNOR:




Secretary of State


Assistant Secretary of State



State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

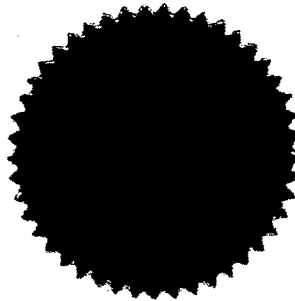
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations", and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1988, declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 6th, 2004 as

A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this seventeenth day of February in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Four.

John E. Baldacci
Governor

Dan A. Gwadosky
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
hereby proclaims May 6, 2004, as

A Day of Prayer

Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

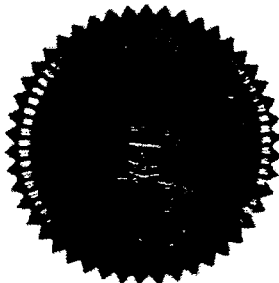
Whereas, In Michigan we are fortunate to have been blessed by our Creator with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests and a people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all our citizens; and,

Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge their beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we as a society and nation face here at home and throughout the world, and to rededicate ourselves to helping others, strengthening our personal faith and joining with His divine plan to spread hope, peace and love among all people; and,

Whereas, The observance also encourages Americans to affirm our nation's spiritual roots and enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and now therefore be it

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, A Day of Prayer in Michigan.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Granholm".

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state we love for so many reasons: its natural beauty, strong communities, diverse population, and progressive heritage; and
WHEREAS: We share a common desire to uphold justice, help our neighbors, and deal forthrightly with the challenges facing our people; and
WHEREAS: We live in a time of uncertainty and anticipation of a fuller realization of peace and prosperity, at home and abroad; and
WHEREAS: We know our state has been strengthened by the faith of its people to shoulder difficult burdens and seize bright new opportunities; and
WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins, "We the people of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure same for ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution..."; and
WHEREAS: We know many of the challenges our society faces require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 6, 2004, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and seek wisdom for the road ahead.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this tenth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the State the one hundred forty-fifth.



[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, in 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, in these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the fifty-third observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 6th, 2004, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
PO Box 200801
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

February 24, 2004


National Day of Prayer
Box 15616
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616

Greetings:

Allow me to heartily endorse the partnership of Montana's citizens in the 2004 National Day of Prayer, an important day marked in a wide array of locales all across this vast state and nation. I urge all Montanans to mark this unique day, May 6, 2004, in their own powerfully personal ways.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


JUDY MARTZ
Governor



State of
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER

May 6, 2004

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to encourage Americans to affirm the nation's spiritual roots and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

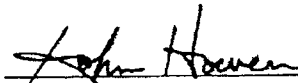
WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude, and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and


WHEREAS, on this special day, we must remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, thank them and their families for their sacrifices, and pray for their safe return; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.discovernd.com

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

DAY OF PRAYER

May 6, 2004

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideas of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom and assistance; and

WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, wisdom, guidance and protection for our families, communities, government leaders, civil servants and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man and the right to individual religious expression.

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the adversity that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right and of the progressive individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of age, race, gender or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that this nation uphold the fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to seek personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget or neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation and personal reflection.

THEREFORE, In recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004 as a DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought or giving thanks.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this ninth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

Edward G. Rendell
EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Boln
Administrativo
Nim.: P-2004-053

Proclama
de la Gobernadora
del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico

Dia de la Oración

- POR CUANTO:** El Gobierno del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico conmemora el "Día de la Oración", en afirmación de la política pública que salvaguarda la calidad de vida óptima del pueblo de Puerto Rico;
- POR CUANTO:** El "Día de la Oración" propicia la ocasión para hacer énfasis en la reflexión respecto a los valores y las virtudes humanas que promueven la unidad familiar y la convivencia armoniosa para la consecución de las metas individuales y colectivas en nuestro país;
- POR CUANTO:** La conmemoración destaca el servicio significativo de las personas, así como de las entidades públicas y privadas que colaboran en la educación espiritual y la reflexión para la forja de una sociedad más justa, unida en hermandad y esperanza por un mundo mejor;
- PORTANTO :** YO, SILA MARÍA CALDERÓN, Gobernadora del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, en virtud de la autoridad que me confieren la Constitución y las Leyes de Puerto Rico, proclamo el 6 de mayo de 2004, **DÍA DE LA ORACIÓN**. Al así hacerlo, exhorto al pueblo de Puerto Rico, a las entidades públicas y privadas, e igualmente, a los medios de comunicación, a participar en las actividades alusivas a esta conmemoración de eminente interés público.



EN TESTIMONIO DE LO CUAL, firmo
la presente y hago estampar en ella el
Gran Sello del Estado Libre Asociado de
Puerto Rico, en la Ciudad de San Juan,
hoy, 24 de febrero de 2004.

SILA MARÍA CALDERÓN

Promulgada de acuerdo con la Ley, hoy, 24 de febrero de 2004.


JOSÉ MIGUEL IZQUIERDO ENCARNACIÓN
Secretario de Estado



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation, and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

May 6, 2004

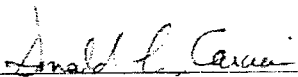
as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 6th day of May 2004.





Donald L. Carcieri
Governor



Matthew A. Brown
Secretary of State



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, many of our leaders have always turned to prayer in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, legislation was passed unanimously in 1988 by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan setting aside the first Thursday in May of each year as a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Congress has declared Thursday, May 1, 2004 as the 53rd consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

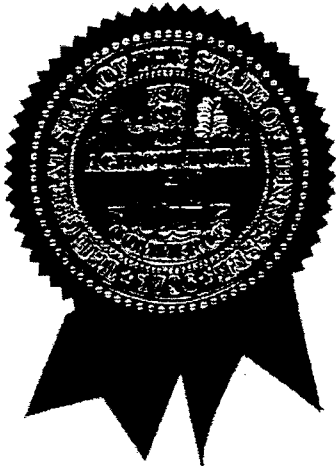
WHEREAS, I join with our President and the Governors of the United States, and invite Tennesseans of faith to join in prayer for our nation and our state,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2004, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Tennessee, and encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the importance and significance that this day has for people of all faiths.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 14th day of April, 2004.



Governor

Secretary of State

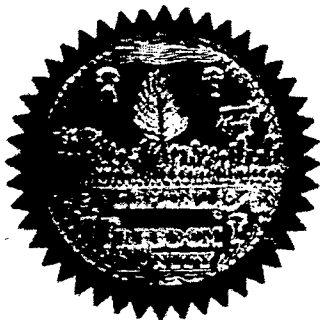
STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

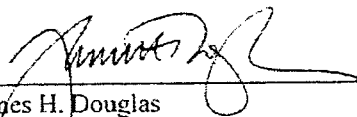
WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775; and
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and
WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were frequently united in observance of prayer; and
WHEREAS, citizens of Vermont may wish to join in observance of the National Day of Prayer in the hope that problems of the nation can be peacefully resolved.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby proclaim **May 6, 2004**, as a

DAY OF PRAYER


in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 25th day of February, A.D. 2004.




James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:


Neale F. Lunderville
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

A PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS IN 1952, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO SET ASIDE AND PROCLAIM THE FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS A "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"; AND

WHEREAS MAY 6, 2004 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, COMMEMORATING THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION WITH THE THEME "LET FREEDOM RING"; AND

WHEREAS WITH ALL THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS WE FACE DAILY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LIVE EVER MINDFUL OF HIS JUSTICE AND GIVE THANKS FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLES W. TURNBULL, GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 6, 2004 AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMEMORATING THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC CELEBRATION. I CALL UPON THE RESIDENTS OF THE TERRITORY TO JOIN WITH ME IN OBSERVING THE OCCASION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS TO BE AFFIXED AT CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS, THIS 5TH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2004.



Charles W. Turnbull
CHARLES W. TURNBULL
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: *Vargrave Richards*
VARGRAVE RICHARDS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

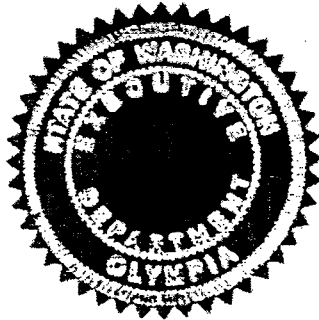
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as the

Day of Prayer

in Washington state, in keeping with the wishes of the Congress of the United States, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 9th day of February, 2004

Governor Gary Locke



Proclamation
by
Governor Bob Wise

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and benevolent God upon our government and people; and,

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard and who strongly desire to preserve their state's heritage; and,

Whereas, joining in common prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and,

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with a unified expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention in the preservation and continuation of strong religious principles upon which our nation and our state have been established;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Bob Wise, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 6, 2004*, as:

A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join in a national effort to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Second day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Four, and in the One Hundred Forty-first year of the State.



Bob Wise

Bob Wise
Governor

By the Governor:

Joe Manchin III
Secretary of State

EXHIBIT 19

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 1952, the United States Congress established an annual Day of Prayer, during which Americans of all faiths were encouraged to pause in prayer, thanking God for this land and its people and seeking inspiration, strength, and guidance, wisdom, courage, direction, and comfort; and

WHEREAS: As Americans, we need not shrink from asking for Divine assistance in our continuing efforts to relieve human suffering at home and abroad, to reduce hatred, violence, and abuse, and to restore families across our land; and

WHEREAS: Throughout the history of our Nation, our government has welcomed Divine guidance in its work, while respecting the rich and varied faiths of its citizens. From patriots and presidents to advocates for justice, our history reflects the strong presence of prayer in American life; and

WHEREAS: America was founded on the principles of religious freedom and liberty for all. By following our own beliefs while respecting the convictions of others, we can strengthen our people and build upon our promise as a State; and

WHEREAS: This year marks the 58th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer with its theme: "Prayer! America's Hope", based upon Psalm 33:22, which states, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You"; and

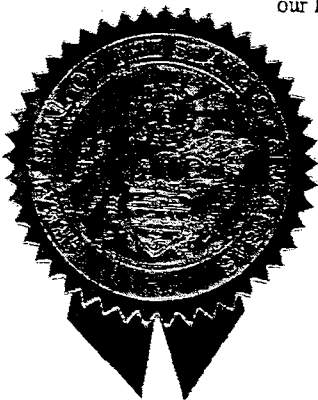
WHEREAS: On May 7, Americans are invited to join in prayer for our Nation and our States, to give thanks for the men and women of the military who defend freedom, to ask for God's protection, and to pray for peace throughout the World;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to pray with diligence and humility.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2009.




MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR


CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT
19

1



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and nation, we have humbly prayed for guidance, comfort, and protection where needed, and have given thanks for our many blessings which God has graciously bestowed on this nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, prayer has comforted us in times of sorrow, and given us strength and hope for the future. We ask God to keep His hand upon us and bless the great State of Florida and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, we continue to give thanks for the men and women of the military that are defending our freedom and we humbly ask God for their protection. We pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, 2009 marks the 58th anniversary of the consecutive annual observance of the National Day of Prayer, and the theme this year is, "Prayer...America's Hope," based on Psalm 33:22 which declares "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you;" and

WHEREAS, on May 7th, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate repentance and renewal and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders and ask God to protect and bless our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 7, 2009 as the *National Day of Prayer*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 31st day of March, in the year two thousand nine.

Governor

State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, PRAYER IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HERITAGE, WITH THE FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JULY 20, 1775; TO AFFIRM THE NATION'S SPIRITUAL HERITAGE AND TO ENLIST PRAYER FOR LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS; AND

WHEREAS, REVIVED AS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE BY CONGRESS IN 1952, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HAS BECOME A GREAT UNIFYING FORCE FOR OUR CITIZENS FROM A DIVERSE NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS AND IS RECOGNIZED AS A DAY FOR ALL AMERICANS TO PRAY AND REAFFIRM THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED; AND

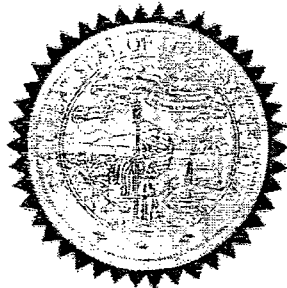
WHEREAS, WE CONTINUE GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MILITARY WHO DEFEND FREEDOM, AND WE HUMBL Y ASK FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND PRAY FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS, THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS 'AMERICA, UNITE IN PRAYER' INSPIRED BY THE EXHORTATION FOUND IN II CHRONICLES 7:14 "IF MY PEOPLE... WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY: //

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 7, 2009, AS A

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND NINE.

Chester J. Culver
CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

Michael A. Mauro
MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Idaho are a diverse people, representing many nations and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our country is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon their God with needs both great and small, such as:

"It would be particularly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that Almighty Being, Who rules over the universe, Who presides in the councils of the nations, and Whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States." – George Washington, Inaugural Address, April 1789

"We humbly and fervently implore the Almighty disposer of events – to maintain the Constitution and to bless our nation with tranquility, under Whose benign influence we may reach the summit of happiness and glory, to which we are destined by nature and by nature's God." – William Penn, 1799

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is the mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly ask our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is our greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray – to really pray." – Robert E. Lee, 1864

"It is the duty of mankind on all suitable occasions to acknowledge their dependence on the Divine Being." – Benjamin Franklin concerning a fast day, 1748

"While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued, but when they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Samuel Adams while signing the Declaration of Independence, 1776

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go." – Abraham Lincoln concerning his belief in the power of prayer, Date Unknown

WHEREAS, the motto of the National Day of Prayer and the State Day of Prayer is "Prayer...America's Hope" a reaffirmation for the biblical exhortation in Psalm 33:22 "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, to be

A DAY OF PRAYER

in Idaho, and I invite citizens to gather together on this day in their homes, churches, public meeting places, and various places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and the return of strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, and peace and understanding throughout the world.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho in Boise on this 24th day of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty third and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred nineteenth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, Prayer to the Almighty God is regarded by millions as the most important utterance of mankind for its benefit; and
- WHEREAS, It is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity which our nation and state enjoy and to pray for the continued guidance and comfort which God has graciously bestowed upon this nation since its inception; and
- WHEREAS, This Day of Prayer is a time set aside for Americans to pray to their heavenly Father and to reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS, The State of Indiana and the United States of America can and will benefit from prayer by its faithful and prayerful residents; and
- WHEREAS, This year's theme, "Prayer... America's Hope," is inspired by the exhortation found in Psalm 33:22 NIV, ~ "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you." ||
- WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer provides a powerful opportunity for people to humble themselves before the Almighty and to seek the "redeeming and preserving grace" of which Lincoln so eloquently spoke in asking God to "shed His grace" on us; and
- WHEREAS, Across our land, on May 7th, Americans will unite at specific times in prayer for our nation and state to acknowledge our dependence upon God, to give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him, to recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values and to invoke God's blessings upon our leaders; and
- WHEREAS, It seems fitting to acknowledge these benefits as we assemble to give thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed since America's founding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as a

Day of Prayer

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I have
set my hand and cause to be affixed the
Great Seal of State. Done at the
City of Indianapolis, this 13th
day of March in the year of our
Lord 2009 and of the Independence
of the United States 232.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

M E Daniels, Jr.

Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Americans have turned to God in prayer for guidance, strength, and inspiration since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, Since the Continental Congress first declared the first Day of Prayer in 1775, the people of the United States and this great Commonwealth have regularly gathered to pray for our nation, its people, and our leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky and its citizens serve as an illustration of the abundance of blessings God will bestow upon those who pray earnestly to Him; and

WHEREAS, It is an honor and a privilege to join the nation in petitioning to God for wisdom, blessings, and protection of our President, our troops, and local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, We continue to give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women in the military and ask that God will grant them courage and grace as they bravely defend freedom throughout the world, as well as comfort their families; and

WHEREAS, We humbly ask God to safeguard Kentucky's people and continue to guide our Commonwealth in the direction of His will; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the 58th National Day of Prayer, Prayer...America's Hope, is based on Psalm 33:22 which says, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

DAY OF PRAYER

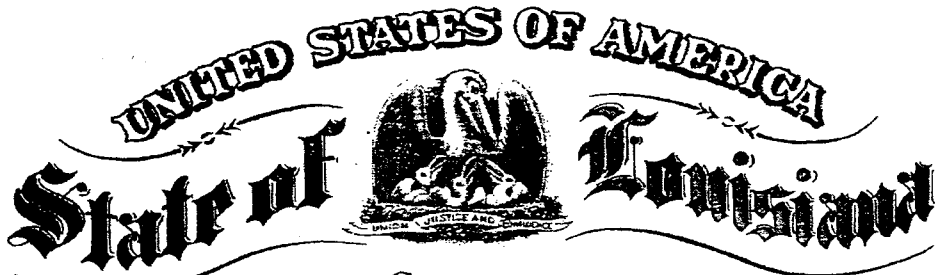
in Kentucky.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this
1st day of April, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand
Nine and in the 217th year of the Commonwealth.

Handwritten signature of Steven L. Beshear.
STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Trey Grayson.
Trey Grayson
Secretary of State



Governor
Bobby Jindal

Proclamation

WHEREAS, prayer is a fundamental part of our nation's heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775 to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, revived as an annual observance by Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a great unifying force for our citizens from a diverse number of religious backgrounds and is recognized as a day for all Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, we continue giving thanks for the men and women of the military who defend freedom, and we humbly ask for their protection and pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "Prayer...America's Hope" and is based on Psalm 33:22 which states, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

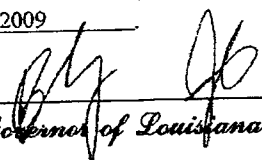
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as a


DAY OF PRAYER
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By
The Governor

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 7th day of May
A. D., 2009


Governor of Louisiana


Secretary of State

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Established in 1952 by Congress, the National Day of Prayer has become a treasured part of our nation's heritage of faith; and

Whereas Each American has the freedom to worship and pray as he or she desires; and

Whereas This day provides all Massachusetts citizens the opportunity to join together in prayer to give thanks for our blessings, to ask for healing, to ask God to guide our leaders and to bring peace to our nation and the world; and

Whereas "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you," is the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, inspired by Psalm 33:22.

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 7th, 2009, to be

MASSACHUSETTS DAY OF PRAYER

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this thirty-first day of March, in the year two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-second.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on a firm and faithful bedrock, by men who turned to their God for guidance through prayer, and prayerful reverence has since sustained our society and guided our government; and

WHEREAS, In 1775, the Continental Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, an action reaffirmed in 1952 when the United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as an annual National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, Prayer allows us an opportunity to reflect and to seek guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God; and

WHEREAS, In these trying times, when the world is so unsettled and when so many brave citizens of Mississippi and the United States are far from home, making great sacrifices for those abroad and those here at home, prayer becomes all the more meaningful and important; and

WHEREAS, Day of Prayer, we ask God's continued blessings on our country. This year's theme, "Prayer! America's Hope," is taken from Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." On this day, we pray for the safety of our brave men and women in uniform, for their families, and for the comfort and recovery of those who have been wounded. ||

WHEREAS, This year marks the fifty-eighth observance of National Prayer Day, and people will gather together across our nation to observe this important event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 7th, 2009, as

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, on the twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-third.


HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made laws the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress, themselves, begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Nebraska when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 58th Annual National Day of Prayer; its theme being "Prayer, America's Hope" reflecting the words in Psalms 33:22; "May your unfailing love rest upon us Oh God."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 7th day of May, 2009, as a

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nine.



Attest:

Jim D. Hall
Secretary of State

Dave Heineman
Governor

16



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on May 7th millions of Americans will gather for the 58th annual National Day of Prayer, established by joint resolution of Congress in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to the Americans of all faiths who share the profound conviction that God listens to the voice of His children and pours His grace upon those who seek Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, great American leaders prayed for wisdom while forming this nation and continue to look for spiritual guidance in confronting the many challenges of our day; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year is "Prayer – America's Hope", based on Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you; ||

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as:

"Day of Prayer"

throughout the State of New Mexico as an ongoing affirmation of America's religious freedoms.

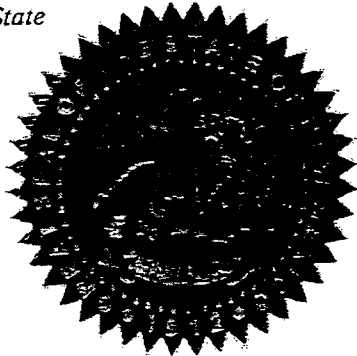
Attest:

Mary Herrera
Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
3rd day of April, 2009.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Bill Richardson
Governor



||

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders, and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

Whereas, The 2009 theme, "Prayer... America's Hope" is based on the verse from Psalm 33:22; and, ||

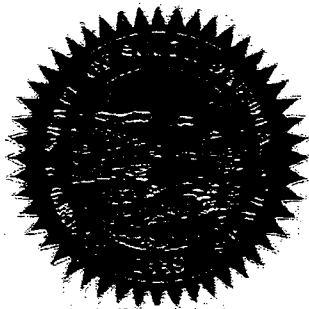
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to participate in local community activities to recognize this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders, and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

Whereas, The 2009 theme, "Prayer... America's Hope" is based on the verse from Psalm 33:22; and, ||

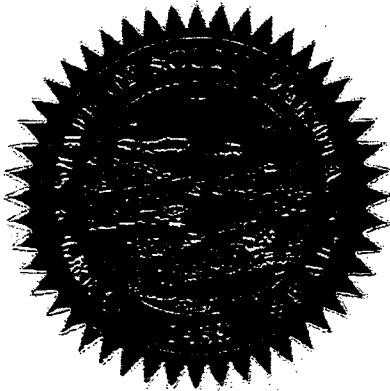
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to participate in local community activities to recognize this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

13



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to join in prayer, seeking wisdom as they faced the responsibility and opportunity of building a new nation. Three decades later, during a time of national turmoil, President John Adams declared "a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer," asking citizens of all faiths to pray for America's protection from danger. Later, as civil war tore our young country apart, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of national fasting and prayer, saying "it behooves us ... to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray to the God that made us."

These times of national supplication were made official in 1952, with the signing of a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress by President Harry Truman, establishing a floating annual national day of prayer. Finally, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set the date of the annual prayer day as the first Thursday of May.

Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer and reflection during times of strength and weakness and in moments of joy and despair, seeking comfort, giving thanks and asking for guidance and grace. Today, Americans continue in the tradition of our forefathers by acknowledging the power of prayer in our lives and cherishing our right to pray freely.

We are asked again this year to join together in prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009, for the 58th Annual National Day of Prayer. The spirit of this year's theme, "Prayer... America's Hope," is reflected in Psalm 33:22: "May your unfailing love rest upon us, oh, Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

As our nation comes together, let us all pray for unity and righteousness — for this great state, this great nation and all mankind.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009,

A Day of Prayer

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 5th day of January, 2009.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas





Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1783, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the United States of America Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and,

Whereas, this year's celebration theme, "Prayer! Americas Hope," was inspired by Psalm 33:22 that reads, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you,"

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 7, 2009, as

National Day of Prayer

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds and serves as a source of moral and spiritual guidance for millions throughout our Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, National Day of Prayer was first observed by members of the Continental Congress in 1775 and President Truman signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the 100th United States Congress passed a resolution on May 5, 1988, proclaiming the observance of the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this day of prayer, *Prayer! America's Strength and Shield*, comes from the scripture Psalm 28:7, which says, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped"; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Day of Prayer is recognized by Virginians and Americans of all religious faiths, and those who participate will join in prayer for our loved ones and for our enemies, and to reaffirm our course as a democratic nation with the promise of liberty and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize May 7, 2009 as **DAY OF PRAYER** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since they were declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 58th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 7, 2009, as mandated by both house of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American History; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Wyoming and its people will continue to be blessed and protected; and

WHEREAS, Psalm 33:22 states: "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you"; and

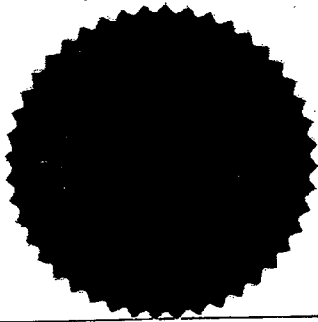
WHEREAS, this year's National Day Prayer theme is "Prayer! America's Hope;"

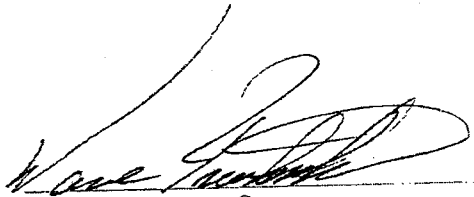
NOW THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, to be

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 7th day of February, 2009.




Governor



Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.

Declaration

Whereas, prayer is a fundamental part of our national heritage, with the first National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775;

Whereas, in 1783, the conclusion of the Revolutionary War marked a temporary end to the National Day of Prayer;

Whereas, reinstated as an annual observance by the United States of America Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a unifying force for American citizens from diverse religious backgrounds;

Whereas, this nation has traditionally sought divine guidance as it charted what has become the path of American history; and,

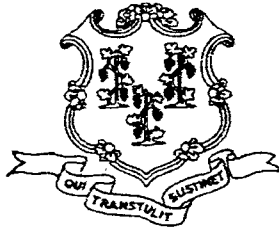
Whereas, this year's celebration theme, "Prayer! Americas Hope," was inspired by Psalm 33:22 that reads, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you,"

Now, Therefore, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare May 7, 2009, as

National Day of Prayer

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

WHEREAS, this year's annual observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on May 7, 2009, and the theme of the nationwide celebration is "Prayer: America's Hope"; and

WHEREAS, a joint resolution of the United States Congress in 1952 established an annual day for prayer and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, the declaration was amended in 1988, by both houses of Congress and President Ronald Reagan, setting a permanent date for the National Day of Prayer to be observed on the first Thursday of the month of May each year; and

WHEREAS, the annual day of prayer honors the vision and reverence of our Founding Fathers, who, at the first Continental Congress in 1775 called for a Day of Prayer, as they sought guidance and support from God to have the courage and wisdom to build our Nation; and

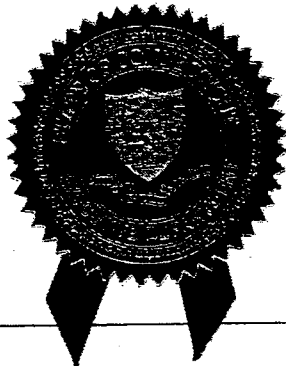
WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should give thanks for the freedom and prosperity enjoyed by this State and our Nation and pray for continued guidance and comfort, which has been graciously bestowed upon this Nation since its inception; and

WHEREAS, as caring citizens of this great State, we recognize prayer to be both powerful and peaceful; now

THEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 7, 2009, as the

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Connecticut, and urge all citizens to observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

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BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance and sought to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Prayer was so important to our forefathers that they declared freedom of religion as one of our fledgling nation's greatest needs; and

WHEREAS: A National Day of Prayer was first established by the Continental Congress in 1775, and the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a day each year to recognize the tradition of prayer in our land; and

WHEREAS: We are afforded the privilege of prayer and the joy of seeking guidance, strength, comfort and inspiration from Almighty God. Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith practices, we have an assurance that God hears our prayers and faithfully responds to our humble petitions; and

WHEREAS: Our state and her people have been blessed, and we have faith that this is a direct result of the heartfelt prayers of Georgia families and individuals. We are proud to join the nation in observing May 7, 2009, as a Day of Prayer, with its theme, "Prayer...America's Hope"; and

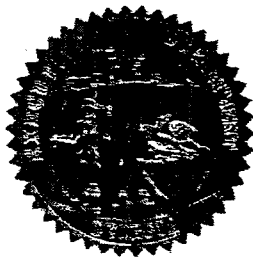
WHEREAS: During these trying economic times, we pray for our families under stress and for our leaders as they work to resolve the difficult issues we face; and

WHEREAS: We continue to pray for God's blessing upon our military troops, here and abroad, praying for protection, wisdom and divine guidance as they serve our nation. We pray for our heroes here at home who risk their lives every day to protect us, including police officers and firefighters, and ask that God watch over them as they watch over us; and

WHEREAS: We remember and mourn for all Americans lost whose mission was to protect us here at home or to free the helpless abroad. As they join our forefathers; many of whom also made the ultimate sacrifice, we ask the Lord to bless and comfort their families; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as a DAY OF PRAYER in Georgia and encourage our citizens to pray for God's blessings on our nation and her people.

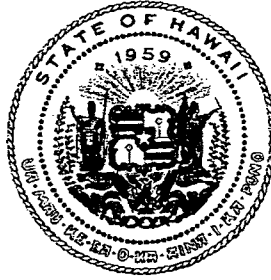
In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
Ed F. Holcomb
CHIEF OF STAFF

20



Proclamation

For many people throughout the world, prayer is an important aspect of life. During the course of human history, men and women of various faiths have turned to prayer in times of joy and celebration, as well as in times of grief and need. Prayer is regarded as a powerful force to find peace, comfort and healing, as well as to show reverence, express one's thoughts or emotions or seek forgiveness. It is for this reason that America's founding fathers included and protected this freedom in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

On May 7, 2009, millions of Americans will gather for the 58th annual *National Day of Prayer*, themed "Prayer...America's Hope." More than 50,000 prayer groups from across the country will join together in places of worship and other locations to pray for spiritual guidance, as well as the needs of our communities, nation and world.

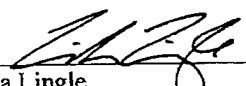
Locally, the Hawai'i Prayer Task Force will lead participants in prayer at Kapolei District Park at noon, and in an evening ceremony joined by federal, state and elected officials, pastors, congregations and representatives from the armed forces at the State Capitol Auditorium from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

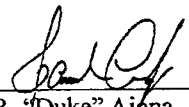
THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to join together in prayer, each according to his or her own faith.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of May 2009.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

Proclamation

WHEREAS, national days of prayer have been a part of our country's heritage since first declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the 58th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held May 7, 2009, as mandated by both houses of Congress and by our President; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, we are thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and pray that the state of Missouri and its people will continue to be blessed and protected from those who threaten democracy; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Day of Prayer theme is "Prayer! America's Hope"; and

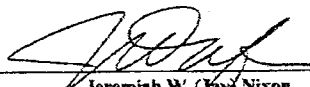
WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge the important role of prayer and faith-based organizations in our communities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, to be

MISSOURI DAY OF PRAYER

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 27th day of March, 2009.




Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Attest:

Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

2009

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer have been part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders of our Nation have relied upon the power of prayer throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, May 7, 2009, marks the 58th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer, as mandated by both Congress and by our President in Public Law 100-307; and

WHEREAS, it is good that we acknowledge that we are all God's handiwork and that it is appropriate to call upon Him in prayer; and

WHEREAS, "Prayer - America's Hope" is the theme for the 2009 National Day of Prayer;

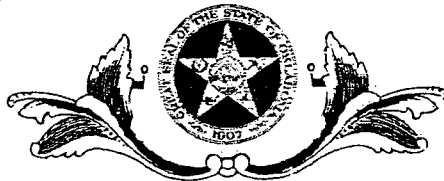
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as a "DAY OF PRAYER" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to join together in their homes, places of work and places of worship, to pray for the unity of the hearts of all mankind, and to continue in prayer for our State and our Nation. ||



B. E. Perdue
BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition and important occasion first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and Americans since the days of our founders have shared our dependence on God, faith and prayer while insisting on religious freedom; and

Whereas, it is eminently fitting and proper that we in Oklahoma observe a day when all of us in our communities may acknowledge our blessings, and express gratitude for them while recognizing our need for the strengthening of spiritual and moral values in our land; and

Whereas, the 2008 theme for the National Day of Prayer is "Prayer! America's Hope". Given the tragic disasters and the challenging times which test our country's will and faith, it is appropriate to turn to God for faith, repentance, support, healing, protection and guidance in order that we may honor God, build stronger communities of character based on His ways and have great hope for the future; and

Whereas, world events and our great need at this time, make this a critical year for prayer to Almighty God for ourselves, our communities and our leaders; and

Whereas, prayer reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in troubled and difficult times;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

"A Day of Prayer"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



ATTEST

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 9th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred first year.

M. Susan Large
SECRETARY OF STATE

Brad Henry
GOVERNOR

Executive Proclamation

by

Sarah Palin, Governor

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer has been embedded in American tradition for hundreds of years- the Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer in 1775; in 1863, Abraham Lincoln established a proclamation for a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer"; a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman in 1952, declared an annual, national day of prayer; and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, following the devastating event the United States experienced on September 11, 2001, President Bush reminded us that Congress, through Public Law 100-307, called on citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing this day annually; and

WHEREAS, the people of Alaska represent a variety of cultural and religious traditions, and each community of faith warrants the recognition and respect of others; and

WHEREAS, we encourage thoughtful reflection on the condition of our state and country, and honor our freedom of religious expression, whether that is prayer, giving alms, fasting, peace activism, meditation, promotion of social justice, or another form of contemplative action; and

WHEREAS, let us not forget that the liberty and freedoms we enjoy are promoted and protected by the willingness, dedication, and sacrifice of our country's military servicemen and women; and

WHEREAS, on this National Day of Prayer, I urge you to join fellow Americans across racial, political, and religious boundaries to observe this special day within your respective communities and faith traditions; and

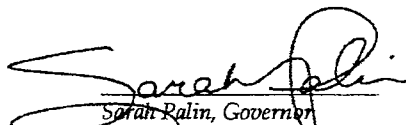
WHEREAS, may we be thankful for our blessings, reflect on the many needs of our state and nation, treat our neighbors with dignity and respect, and seek moral and spiritual renewal through the religious or spiritual expression which most closely aligns with who we are as individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the state of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as:

National Day of Prayer

in Alaska and encourage Alaskans to keep the health, well-being, prosperity, and peace of our state, nation, and world in mind on this day.

Dated: May 1, 2009


Sarah Palin, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, our nation was founded by men who sought wisdom and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in 1952, enacted legislation setting aside a Day of Prayer for the nation, and in 1988, designated the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, prayer has played a strong role in our nation's history and heritage, as many Americans have depended on it for healing, hope and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the observance of the National Day of Prayer has proved to be a powerful tool that has brought together and united citizens from diverse religious backgrounds in an effort to face life's challenges with renewed hope; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 26th day of February 2009.

Bob Riley

Governor Bob Riley

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor

• DAY OF PRAYER •

WHEREAS, the religious freedom guaranteed us by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the diversity of faiths practiced in America have made our land a beacon for people who seek freedom to worship according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, Americans of every race, background and creed come together in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and their own homes to pray for guidance, wisdom and courage; and

WHEREAS, just as we rely on prayer for courage, hope and renewal in our private lives, so too do we turn to prayer at times of joy, crisis and tragedy in our public life as a Nation and a State; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS, we are especially mindful of the heroic men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those serving abroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as

• DAY OF PRAYER •

and encourage all Arizonans to pray on their own and give thanks for the rich blessings of our State and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-fourth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-third.

ATTEST:

Klu Bennett

Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION

Prayer has helped pull people through struggles and fears of every kind. It also serves as a wonderful way to express love, gratitude and concern, whether in private or amongst family and friends. Throughout our nation's history, leaders have urged citizens of faith to pray for our land and those who defend our freedoms at home and abroad. For many Californians, prayer is an important part of their daily lives, and today, we join with people across our country in uniting in a National Day of Prayer.

Whether your particular place of worship is a church, synagogue, temple, mosque, home or other hallowed place, I hope you will take a moment today to commune with God. In these prayers, may we remember our loved ones, our communities, our troops, people and families in need and especially our hard-working friends and neighbors who are struggling during these challenging economic times.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as a "Day of Prayer" in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of April 2009.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen.

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Whereas, those who conceived our nation drew strength, wisdom and inspiration from prayer and referred on numerous occasions to the necessity of prayer; and

Whereas, since our nation's inception, nearly every President has called the nation to prayer during critical times; and

Whereas, in 1863, President Lincoln declared a National Day of Prayer and fasting as the decisive Battle of Gettysburg raged; and

Whereas, on April 17, 1952, President Truman signed into law the observance of a National Day of Prayer; and

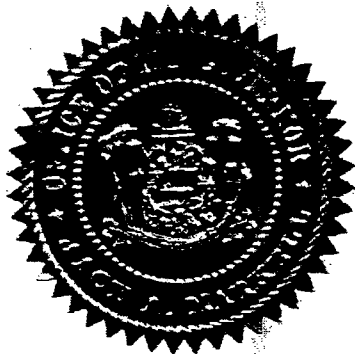
Whereas, we are blessed to live in a country that allows us the freedom of religious expression in the public arena; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity for the community of faith to take advantage of our right to publicly gather and pray.

*Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor,
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 7, 2009*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Delaware and urge all Delawareans to acknowledge the power and importance of prayer especially during these times of uncertainty and daily personal challenges.



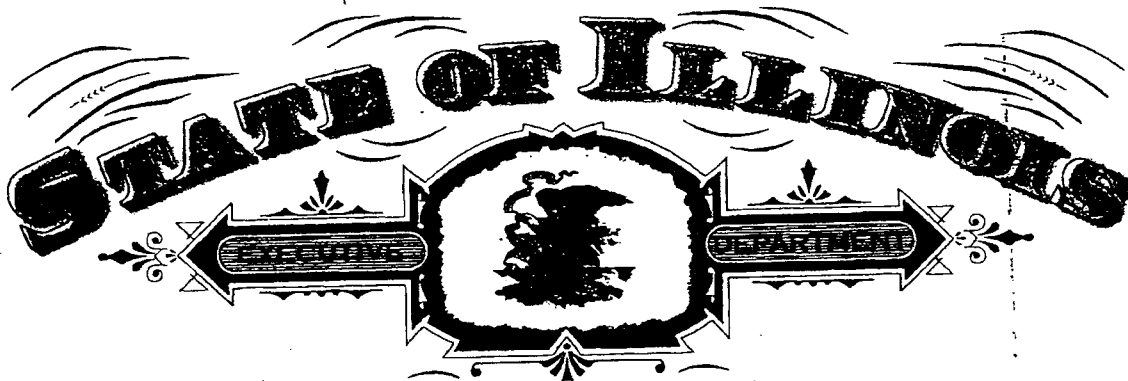
Jack Markell

Jack A. Markell
Governor

Matthew Denn

Matthew Denn
Lieutenant Governor

09.1155
Number



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in times of peril both at home and abroad, many American citizens turn to prayer for help and guidance; and

WHEREAS, millions of men and women across the nation gratefully continue the tradition of prayer in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship across our country; and

WHEREAS, established in 1952 by an act of Congress, the National Day of Prayer is now observed nationally every year on the first Thursday in May; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens' freedom of religion, set forth in the First Amendment. Americans treasure their religious freedom, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries; and

WHEREAS, in past years, U.S. presidents and governors have signed proclamations designating a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is pleased to join governors across the nation and President Barack Obama by issuing a proclamation honoring the National Day of Prayer, while continuing to work with communities of faith to improve our state;

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this FOURTH day of MAY in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
NINE, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and NINETY-FIRST



Rose White
 SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
 GOVERNOR

STATE OF KANSAS



**PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR**

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, legislation was unanimously ratified by both houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan, stating that the National Day of Prayer was to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 58th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to observe this day in Kansas when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation:


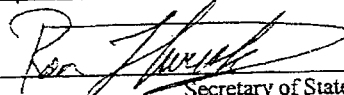
NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2009, as

A Day of Prayer

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 19th day of
March, A.D. 2009

BY THE GOVERNOR:



Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 7, 2009

- WHEREAS,** In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer, during which people throughout the United States were encouraged to pause in repentance and intercession for our nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Prayer can play a valuable and productive role in strengthening bonds of understanding, tolerance, friendship and unity among all people; and
- WHEREAS,** Marylanders cherish our heritage of religious freedom and throughout our State and the Nation events will take place to celebrate and honor the National Day of Prayer; and
- WHEREAS,** Maryland is pleased to recognize the historic role that prayer has played in our nation by observing the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim **MAY 7, 2009** as **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** in Maryland, and do commend this celebration to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 7th day of May
Two thousand
and nine

Martin O'Malley
Governor
John C. McPherson
Lt. Governor
John C. McPherson
Secretary of State

State of Maine



WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength and guidance; and

WHEREAS, especially since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005, Americans have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

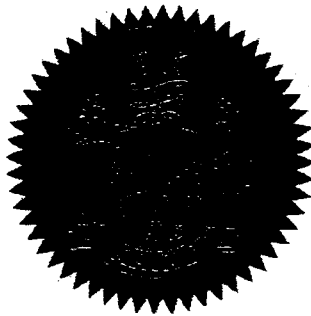
WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of prayer as "an effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by legislative action in 1952 - and amended in 1988 - declared the first Thursday of May to be a National Day of Prayer,

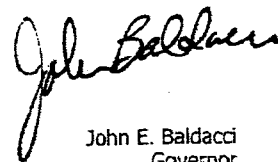
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as

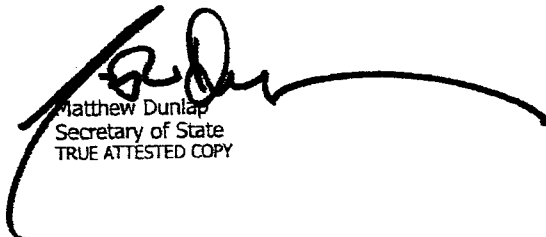
A DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

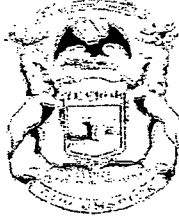


In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twentieth day of March in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.


John E. Baldacci
Governor


Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

Day of Prayer

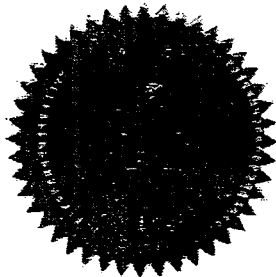
Whereas, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and,

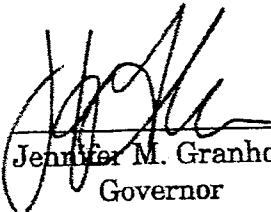
Whereas, In Michigan, we are fortunate to have been blessed with beautiful rivers, lakes, fields, forests, and people who, through hard work and intellectual effort and toil, have made countless cultural, industrial, agricultural and educational advancements for the enrichment of life for all; and,

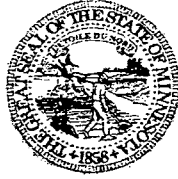
Whereas, In addition to having many blessings for which we should be thankful, our society is also faced with difficult challenges, international unrest, and uncertain changing times which test our people and challenge our beliefs; and,

Whereas, A day of prayer allows us the opportunity to acknowledge our many blessings, to contemplate the numerous challenges that we, as a society and a nation, face here at home and throughout the world;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, Day of Prayer in Michigan. I encourage all citizens to dedicate themselves to helping others, strengthen their own personal faith, and join together to spread hope, peace, and love among all people.




Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



STATE of MINNESOTA

WHEREAS: Minnesota is a state that enjoys many blessings: natural beauty, abundant resources, strong families, a diversified economy, native peoples, and immigrants from all over the world; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is challenged by the pervasive enemies of humankind: poverty, sickness, hunger, injustice, prejudice, discouragement, greed, crime, and alienation; and

WHEREAS: Minnesotans have always held high standards of excellence, justice, generosity, freedom, equality, and progress, and we have faced these problems with resolve; and

WHEREAS: Our state has been strengthened by the conscience-based actions of people of faith in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS: Many of the challenges we face require a change of heart, which government cannot legislate or enforce, but which spiritual growth can bring about; and

WHEREAS: Our Constitution begins with these words: "We, the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLNTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 7, 2009, as:

DAY OF PRAYER

in the State of Minnesota and humbly encourage citizens of faith to turn to God as their understanding and beliefs direct, that we may open our hearts in thanksgiving for blessings received and to seek strength, wisdom, and encouragement to build a better Minnesota for all.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 16th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the State the one hundred fiftieth.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

March 3, 2009

Mrs. Pat Kempf
Montana State Coordinator
National Day of Prayer
PO Box 20894
Billings, MT 59104

My Fellow Montanans:

Although I do not issue proclamations for days, weeks, or months, I am pleased to recognize "National Day of Prayer" in the State of Montana.

I appreciate your efforts to use this observance to raise awareness and to educate the public. I encourage Montanans of every faith to acknowledge May 7th, 2009 as the 58th Annual National Day of Prayer.

This event is an opportunity to reflect on the magnificent diversity of religious beliefs across Montana and nation, should serve to unite people of faith from every culture and tradition.

I commend your efforts to keep freedom of religion alive nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letter 'B' followed by a stylized flourish.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

**PROCLAMATION
DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 7, 2009**

WHEREAS, since our nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for hope, strength, comfort and protection in times of grief, anger and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, National Days of Prayer are a venerable American tradition, the first such day having been proclaimed by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775, to affirm the nation's spiritual heritage and to enlist prayer for local, state and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we observe a day to acknowledge our many blessings, express gratitude and recognize the need to strengthen religious and moral values in our state and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is also an opportunity to renew and inspire the joy we find in our faith, friends, family and communities, to remember those who are suffering and facing hardships, and to pray for peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, a day of prayer is a day to remember our brave men and women who are fighting to defend our country and preserve our freedoms, and to recognize those who have returned safely home to their family and friends; we also honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation and the families who mourn their loss; and

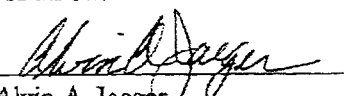
WHEREAS, the North Dakota state constitution states, "We, the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain and establish this constitution."; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer, allowing us an opportunity to celebrate our freedoms and America's great tradition of prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, a **DAY OF PRAYER** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov
Pls_Rsp_Req_POD_313

*State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor*

A Proclamation

**DAY OF PRAYER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAY 7, 2009**

WHEREAS, Prayer is an important part of the lives of many citizens; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer is "Prayer...America's Hope"; and

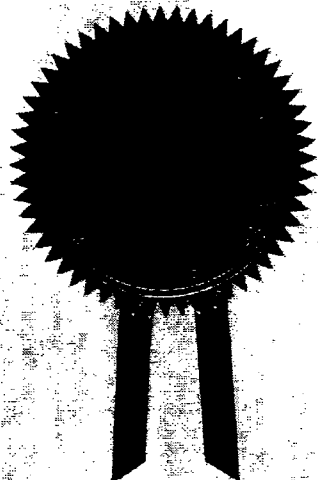
WHEREAS, In times of uncertainty, people often use prayer as a way to find both strength and courage in themselves and in the world around them; and

WHEREAS, In times of prosperity, people often use prayer as a means to give thanks for their good fortune and freedoms; and

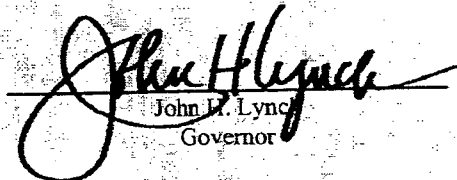
WHEREAS, For many, prayer provides solace and a way to connect spiritually and determine those things that are important in our lives; and

WHEREAS, Since 1952, the nation has celebrated the National Day of Prayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **MAY 7, 2009** as the national **DAY OF PRAYER** in New Hampshire and urge citizens to consider the importance of prayer in the lives of millions of Americans.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord, this 24th day of March, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and nine, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-three.


John H. Lynch
Governor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in America, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May annually as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in prayer to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in New Jersey when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them; and

WHEREAS, May 7, 2009, marks the 58th Annual National Day of Prayer;

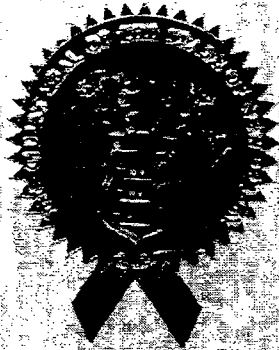
NOW, THEREFORE, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 7, 2009

AS

A DAY OF PRAYER

in New Jersey.

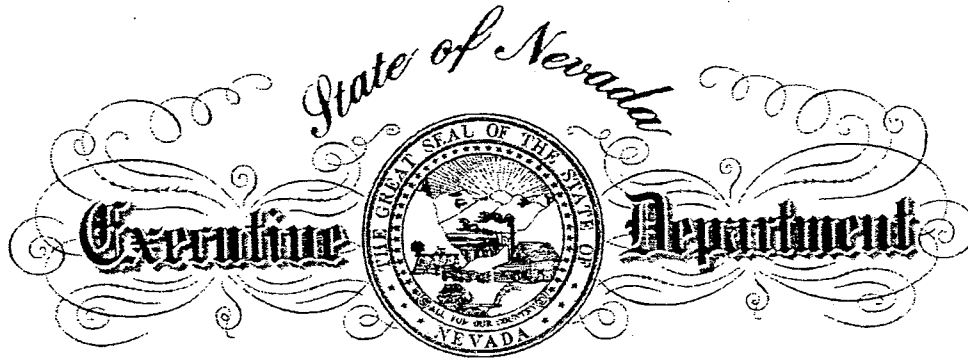


GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this seventh day of May in the year two thousand nine, the two hundred thirty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

NINA MITCHELL WELLS
SECRETARY OF STATE



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada will join together with the entire country on May 7, 2009 to celebrate the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald W. Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of May every year; and

WHEREAS, each year, the President of the United States signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day, and in 2005, state governors and the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2009 National Day of Prayer is "Prayer; America's Hope"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada recognizes this very special day, and joins with Americans across the nation in support of the National Day of Prayer;

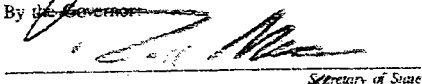
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 20th day of January, 2009.


By the Governor Governor


Secretary of State

By 
Deputy



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the faith of our founding fathers has played a significant role in American history, long inspiring us to seek unity through such traditions as days of prayer and reflection; and

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to seek wisdom as they formed a nation, praying has remained as important a part of the lives of many Americans as during the early days of our Country's rise to greatness; and

Whereas, for the past 234 years, the call to prayer has been echoed throughout history by such leaders as President Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," and President Truman, who in 1952 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer, and President Ronald Reagan, who in 1988 signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, this year's observance gives us cause to reflect upon the need to reaffirm our faith as we look for guidance and protection of America and its people, keeping in mind recent domestic and global events that present challenges; and

Whereas, in considering the many benefits of life in this great nation, we are thankful for the rewards that democracy brings and the values we hold highest - these cherished principles continue to serve as the foundation of our union, drawing us together for the 58th annual National Day of Prayer, which will be observed in churches, synagogues, statehouses, halls of government, other public venues - and within our homes - by people across America; and

Whereas, during these uncertain times, it is fitting that New Yorkers of all faiths and backgrounds join to honor the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness based upon an enduring belief in religious freedom and all freedoms upon which this nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as a

Day of Prayer and Reflection

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of May in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

James Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor



Ted Strickland
Governor of said State
hereby officially recognizes
THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
2009

This tradition has been observed in the United States for more than two centuries in recognition of the role of faith and prayer in our lives, in our heritage, and in our common humanity.

In 1775, the Continental Congress called for colonists to pray for wisdom in forming a new country. In 1863, President Lincoln asked for prayers to help heal a splintered nation. In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution designating one day each year as the National Day of Prayer, and in 1988 the date of the National Day of Prayer was permanently fixed as the first Thursday in May.

Through prayer we may seek strength and gain comfort in the face of challenge. Through prayer we may give thanks and seek guidance in the face of opportunity. As we observe the National Day of Prayer, I encourage Ohioans to let their faith guide them as they open their hearts and minds for reflection and prayer.

ON THIS 7th DAY OF MAY,
TWO THOUSAND NINE.

Ted Strickland
Ted Strickland
Governor

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: The National Day of Prayer was established on April 17, 1952, by a joint resolution of Congress (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64) and designated as the first Thursday in May by President Reagan in 1988; and

WHEREAS: The National Day of Prayer is a celebration of American citizens' freedom of religion, which embraces the many diverse communities of faith that have infused our society and our cultural heritage over more than two centuries reflecting the best values in our nation; and

WHEREAS: Prayer can reflect many common virtues, bonds, hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks, joyful praise and love; and

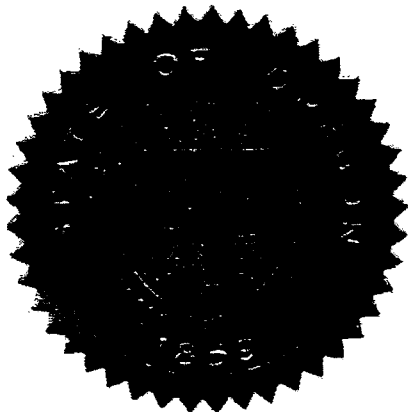
WHEREAS: This year marks the 58th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer.

**NOW,
THEREFORE:** I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim
May 7, 2009 to be

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand
and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to
be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem
in the State of Oregon on this day, March 31, 2009.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Kate Brown
Kate Brown, Secretary of State

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

DAY OF PRAYER

May 7, 2009

WHEREAS, Our country, founded on the ideals of freedom and liberty and rich in cultural diversity, is home to millions of citizens who appeal to a higher being for guidance, wisdom, and assistance; and

WHEREAS, through prayer and daily meditation, individuals take time to reflect on the value of life and the beauty of our world while asking for peace, security, guidance, and protection for our families, government leaders, civil servants, and military; and

WHEREAS, by asking for divine assistance, we seek, in our own way, to eradicate violence, poverty, and human suffering. Our prayers support a nation that promotes individual freedom, justice, compassion for our fellow man, and the right to individual religious expression; and

WHEREAS, celebrating our right to pray reminds us of the adversity that our ancestors struggled against in obtaining this right as well as the progressive individuals throughout our history who sought to ensure these rights for every human, regardless of age, race, gender, or faith. Their prayers asked, as do ours today, that this nation uphold the fundamental right to pray, to live in an environment of peace and safety, and to seek personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of humanity, and we shall never overlook, forget, nor neglect the individual or group right to express religious freedom through prayer, meditation, and personal reflection.

THEREFORE, In recognition of prayer and its importance in our lives, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, DAY OF PRAYER in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to commemorate this day in their own personal way, whether through vocal or silent prayer, meditation, solitary thought, or giving thanks.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and thirty-third.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, our national leaders have historically called on the prayers of the people, without regard to their religious affiliation, to meet the crises that have faced our nation; and

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer was first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of prayer as "An effective remedy for national ills for all people in all nations"; and

Whereas, by joining together on this very important day, we are reminding ourselves and the entire nation of the strong presence of prayer in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

May 7, 2009

as

National Day of Prayer

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 7th day of May 2009.



Donald L. Carcieri

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, first called for in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, days of prayer have continued through our country's history; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

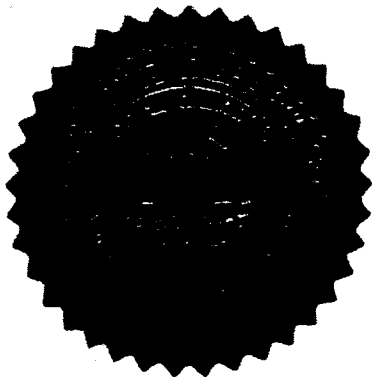
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans; it is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds and faiths to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection on behalf of our families, government leaders, military, and civil servants; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity to pray for our nation, its people, and its leaders while honoring the commitment to religious liberty and tolerance that contributes to our continued strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY OF PRAYER

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with their own faith.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, "Prayer: America's Hope" releases fresh understanding of the hope that is available to us through our communication with the Almighty; and

WHEREAS, much prayer is needed in the state of Tennessee for solving the challenges we face; and

WHEREAS, we ask God's Blessings upon the state of Tennessee, for strength to meet these challenges and for wisdom as we work together to build a network of based upon hope for the future well being of every citizen of this great state; and

WHEREAS, all day on May 7, 2009, in the words of Katherine Lee Bates famous hymn, people across America from sea to shining sea will be joining together in an outpouring of intercession asking in hope for God's unfailing love to rest on this land; and

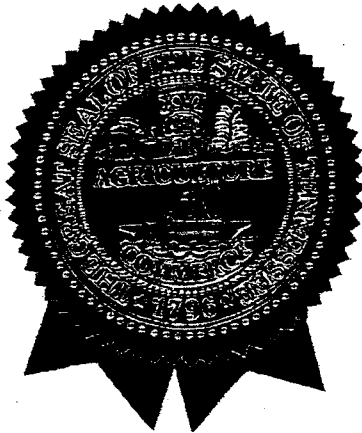
WHEREAS, united prayer brings in a dimension of powerful grace that we cannot access through mere mortal efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Congress, by Public Law 100 - 307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer;"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the state of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009 as a

DAY OF PRAYER

and ask the citizens of our state to give thanks, according to his or her own faith, for the grace that God has shed upon our great state. I urge all Tennesseans to observe this day with appropriate programs and celebrations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 19th day of March, 2009.



Governor



Secretary of State

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first National Day of Prayer was established on July 20, 1775; and
WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a day set aside by Congress for Americans to pray and reaffirm the spiritual principles upon which our nation was founded; and
WHEREAS, during the early years, citizens of this emerging nation were frequently united in observance of prayer; and
WHEREAS, Vermonters may wish to join in observance of the National Day of Prayer in the hope that problems, both within our state and nation and around the world may be peacefully resolved.

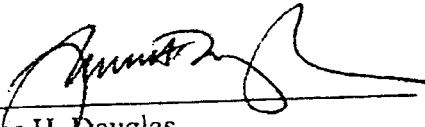
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, Governor, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as a

DAY OF PRAYER

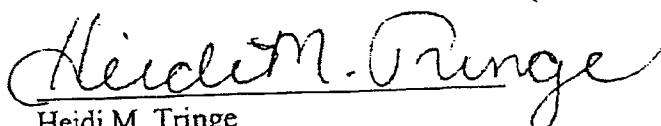
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 23rd day of January, A.D. 2009.




James H. Douglas
Governor

By the Governor:


Heidi M. Tringe
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1952, the Congress of the United States approved the Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64); and

WHEREAS, the history of our nation is indelibly marked with the role that prayer has played in the lives of individuals and the nation; and

WHEREAS, historically our greatest leaders have turned to prayer in times of crisis and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the virtues of prayer reflect a common bond: hopes and aspirations, sorrows and fears, remorse and renewed resolve, thanks and joyful praise, and love;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009, as the

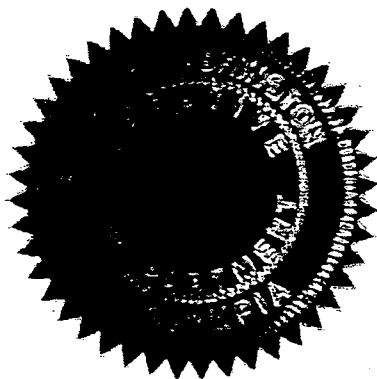
Day of Prayer

in Washington State, in keeping with the wishes of Congress, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 23rd day of April, 2009

Chris Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin are a diverse group of people of nearly every nationality and represented by a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily call upon their God, from the prayers sent heavenward during the Constitutional Convention to those murmured in the heat of the battle at Omaha Beach during World War II, to the intercessions offered in the aftermath of tragedies such as Columbine, September 11th, and the space shuttle break up, whether the need be great or small, Americans of faith have sought the Lord's help with life's challenges and adversities throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin have relied on prayer as a source of strength and guidance in war and peace and as our service men and women are currently defending the United States; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the upcoming observance is "Prayer...America's Hope"; and

WHEREAS, prayer is a comfort for many people, especially during times of trial and tribulation; and

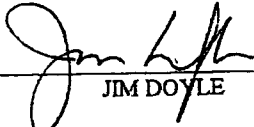
WHEREAS, the citizens of Wisconsin should gather together on this day in their homes, churches, meeting places and chosen places of worship to pray in their own way for unity of the hearts of all mankind, and for strong moral character in the lives of the people of all nations, as well as, peace and understanding throughout the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

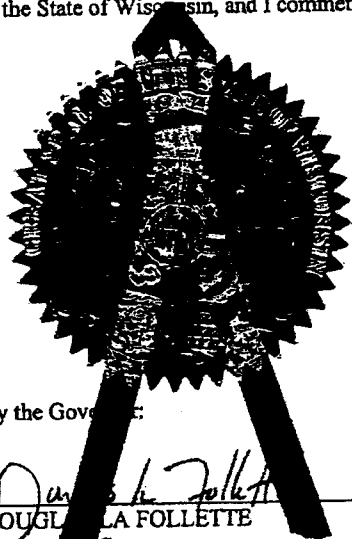
in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fifteenth day of January in the year two thousand nine.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State



Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, prayer has been recognized by our leaders in times of war and peace as vital to the maintenance of a strong national character and necessary to procure the blessings of a just and benevolent God upon our government and people; and,

Whereas, West Virginia, the 35th state of the United States, is a richly beautiful home for its proud people who hold freedom in high regard; and,

Whereas, joining in prayer is one of the most profoundly constructive things we can do for our nation; and,

Whereas, the National Day of Prayer provides an opportunity for West Virginians of all faiths to join in worship across religious boundaries; and,

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor God with an expression of gratitude and humbly request divine intervention to help move our state and nation forward;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 7, 2009*, as:

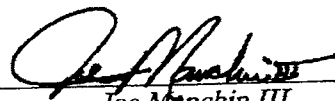
A Day of Prayer

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to better our country through increased spiritual awareness and active participation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

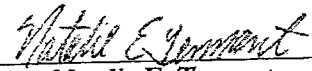
Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight, and in the One Hundred Forty-fifth year of the State.





Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:



Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

A PROCLAMATION

**BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**TO PROCLAIM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

WHEREAS in 1952, the Congress of the United States adopted a Resolution to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May of each year as a "National Day of Prayer"; and

WHEREAS Thursday, May 7th, 2009 has been designated as National Day of Prayer in the Virgin Islands, commemorating the 58th anniversary of this historic celebration; and

WHEREAS faith and prayer are important for the guidance they provide in our lives; and

WHEREAS we can congregate, worship and pray freely, whether in public or in private; and

WHEREAS this annual observance has become a unifying force, not only for citizens of our great Nation, but also for residents of the Territory who come from the various religions of the world; and

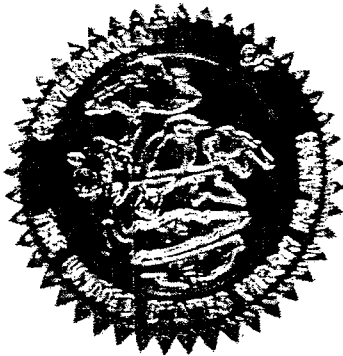
WHEREAS prayer unites people, healing and allowing us to overcome the trials and tribulations we face daily; and

WHEREAS it is especially important that we give thanks and show our appreciation for our Heavenly Father's continued guidance, for He is our rock and our salvation;

National Day of Prayer Proclamation
Page Two

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 7th, 2009 as "National Day of Prayer" in the United States Virgin Islands commemorating the 58th anniversary of this historic celebration. I call upon the residents of the Territory to join with me in observing the occasion.

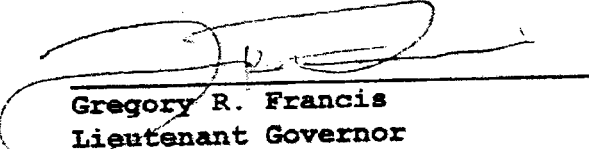
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 11th day of February, A.D., 2009.





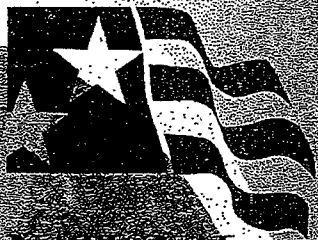
John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:



Gregory R. Francis
Lieutenant Governor

EXHIBIT 20



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Chairman
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman
Mr. Bill Bright

Co-Chairman
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vivian)

Vice Chairman
Mr. Brian John

Senior Director
Mr. John B. Gersheim

Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Fay Mann

Director of Strategic Partnership
Mr. Michael Calhoun

Senior Manager
National Coordinator Network
Mr. Lisa Gorman

Marketing and Media Manager
Mr. Beck Armstrong

Accounting Manager
Mr. Ed Ahlmeier

National Advisory Committee

- Mr. Philip Anschutz
- Dr. Henry Blackaby
- Mr. Charles W. Colson
- Representative Lincoln Davis
- James C. Dobson, PhD
- Mr. Tony Dripping
- Representative Bob Goodlatte
- The Honorable Tony D. Hall
- Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)
- General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)
- Representative Mike McIntyre
- Representative Marilyn Musgrave
- Representative Mike Pence
- Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. (ret.)
- Bishop Phillip Porter
- The Honorable Jim Ryan
- Representative Joseph Pitts
- Representative Chris Smith
- Mr. Gil Strickland

February 17, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado Springs! On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to congratulate you on your historic victory in the presidential election. May God grant you wisdom and discernment as you confront the critical challenges facing our country.

I would also like to request your support of this year's National Day of Prayer, which will take place on Thursday, May 7th. As you know, the National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. From that time forward, every president has signed an annual proclamation setting aside a day of prayer for our nation. The theme for this year's observance is "Prayer... America's Hope," and is based on Psalm 33:22, which reads, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

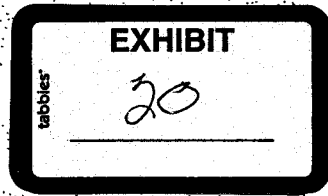
As in the past, citizens from across America will join together this year in public venues and statehouses throughout the land to pray for our country and its leaders, especially you and your administration. An integral part of this yearly national observance is the official presidential proclamation issued by the White House. In recent years, the NDP Task Force has worked with the Clinton and Bush administrations to craft the wording for the presidential proclamation. Enclosed you will find a proposed draft for this year's observance. If it meets with your approval, please sign and return it by Monday, March 30, 2009. As has been done previously, the official presidential proclamation will be included in promotional materials and posted on the Web site at www.nationaldayofprayer.com.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, Mr. President. Your acknowledgement of this year's National Day of Prayer will send a strong message to all Americans about the importance of our shared religious heritage and the continued need to embrace that heritage. God's blessings and our best wishes to you, to Mrs. Obama and your beautiful girls, and to everyone in your administration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures





- Executive Director**
Mrs. Shirley Dobson
- Vice President**
Mr. James C. Dobson
- Director of Administration and Finance**
Mrs. Lisa
- Public Relations Manager**
Mrs. Lisa
- National Operations Manager**
Mrs. Lisa
- Marketing**
Communication Manager
Mrs. Lisa
- Senior Staff Accountant**
Mrs. Lisa
- National Advisory Committee**
 - Mr. Philip
 - Mrs. John
 - The Honorable Dan Coats
 - Mr. Charles
 - James C. Dobson, Jr.
 - The Honorable Bill Frist
 - The Honorable Jay Bybee
 - The Honorable Don Peck
 - The Honorable Kay Coles James
 - Admiral Jerry Johnson (USN (ret))
 - General Charles Krulak (USMC (ret))
 - The Honorable Steve Largent
 - Mrs. Shonie
 - Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., retired
 - The Honorable Joseph Pits
 - Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karen)
 - The Honorable J.C. Watts

- Liaisons**
 - Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)
 - Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)
 - Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

AMERICA, HONOR GOD

"...Those who honor me I will honor..."
1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

February 14, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings from everyone at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! It's my hope that you and Mrs. Bush are doing well. Like so many Americans, Jim and I continue to remember you in our prayers.

As you're undoubtedly aware, there is also an important day of corporate prayer rapidly approaching – the 2006 National Day of Prayer. Our theme for this year's observance, **America, Honor God**, finds its inspiration in our Creator's promise recorded in I Samuel 2:30: "...those who honor me, I will honor..." You and Mrs. Bush have been tremendously gracious in your willingness to take part in the official NDP events in Washington, D.C. in the past, Mr. President, and we're earnestly hoping that you will be able to do so again this year. Thursday, May 4th promises to be one of the most widely recognized observances on record, with gatherings scheduled in government buildings, churches, and other public venues across all 50 states.

As in the past, we have taken the liberty of composing a proposed draft of your official Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. You will find it enclosed with this letter. The leadership and example you provide in calling Americans to prayer every May is one of the most significant components of this historic occasion. We would appreciate receiving this signed proclamation at your earliest convenience so we may use it in our promotional materials. Should you wish to offer an alternative proclamation, we would welcome that as well.

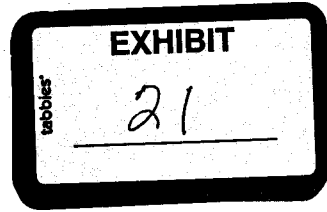
Mr. President, it's been tremendously encouraging to experience firsthand your commitment to prayer and your recognition of this spiritual discipline as critical to the revitalization of our nation's health and stability. This is particularly true in the wake of last year's devastating hurricanes and the ongoing challenges facing our military as it defends freedom worldwide. Thanks in advance for serving a crucial role in calling Americans to prayer, not only in May, but throughout the year! God's blessings to you, your family, and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

I Shes 5:17

Enclosure





NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- Executive Director: Mrs. Lisa...
- Vice President: Mrs. Lisa...
- Director: Mrs. Lisa...
- Public Relations Manager: Mrs. Lisa...
- National Coordinator: Mrs. Lisa...
- Marketing & Communications Manager: Mrs. Lisa...
- Senior Staff Accountant: Mrs. Lisa...
- National Advisory Committee:
 - Mr. Philip...
 - Mr. John...
 - Mr. Howard...
 - Mr. James...
 - The Honorable...
 - The Honorable...
 - The Honorable...
 - Mr. Honorable Kay...
 - Admiral Jerry...
 - General Charles...
 - The Honorable Steve...
 - Mrs. Storme...
 - Judge Charles...
 - The Honorable Joseph...
 - Mrs. Rick...
 - The Honorable J. C. Watts

- Liaisons**
- Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)
- Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)
- Rev. Robert A. Sinco (Catholic Liaison)

AMERICA HONOR GOD

“...Those who honor me I will honor...” 1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

February 14, 2006

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President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-0003

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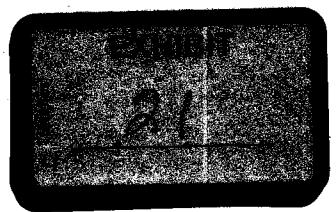
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Sincerely,

Shirley Dobson (handwritten signature)

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

I these 5:17 (handwritten note)



Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 2006
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

America was founded upon the values of peace, justice and equality for all men. Our forebears, who braved incredible odds to establish this new land, looked to God Almighty for strength and guidance as they endeavored to forge a nation committed to those very principles. And the Hand of Providence was gracious in response, bestowing innumerable blessings upon America and its people. Through times of war and peace, want and prosperity, we have rested in the knowledge that our collective destiny lies in the benevolent hands of the Creator of the universe.

Although we have long understood that heavenly gifts are expressions of benevolence and grace that cannot be earned, we also realize that those gifts will be sweeter and more pronounced as we endeavor to honor the Divine Presence from which they emanate. The blessings of God are not to be received lightly; rather, they are to be embraced as a means of upholding truth and fostering goodwill among all men. Our 23rd President, Benjamin Harrison, had this in mind when he said: "God has placed upon our head a diadem and has laid at our feet power and wealth beyond definition or calculation. But we must not forget that we take these gifts upon the condition that justice and mercy shall hold the reins of power and that the upward avenues of hope shall be free to all the people."

In recognition of the promise that God will honor those who honor Him, I urge every American to reaffirm his or her dependence upon the Almighty by joining together in earnest expressions of prayer. May each of us, in meekness and humility, thank Him for the myriad blessings He has bestowed upon us thus far; seek His forgiveness for those times when we, in our weakness and imperfection, have fallen short of His standards; and reaffirm our trust as we look expectantly to Him to light the path before us.

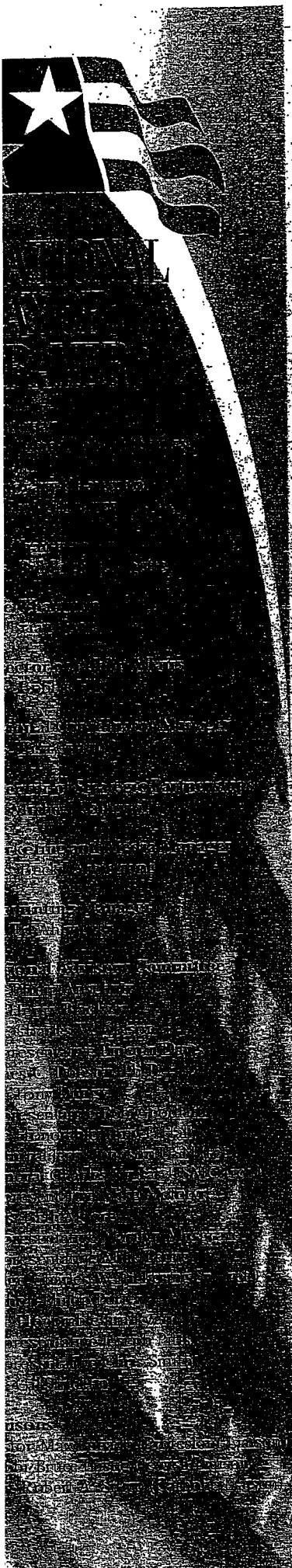
The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on all citizens to unite in humility, faith and dependence upon Divine Providence by recognizing an annual "National Day of Prayer."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2006 as a National Day of Prayer. I ask all able citizens, each according to his or her convictions, to gather in public venues to take part in this cherished national observance. May we take the time to express our gratitude to Almighty God, both corporately and individually, for His provision, and to commit our ways to Him as we look toward the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ___ day of _____, in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

EXHIBIT 22



Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 27, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0003

EXHIBIT
tabbles
22

Dear Mr. President:

Warm greetings from our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force! My staff and I count it a distinct privilege each year to reinforce our country's religious heritage through the assembling of proclamations from our nation's leaders expressing support for the National Day of Prayer. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for standing with us in this way during your tenure as the Governor of Texas and, for the last eight years, as our President. With Thursday, May 1st rapidly approaching, I respectfully request that you come alongside us once again by publicly declaring the significance of this event.

The theme we've chosen for 2008, Prayer! America's Strength and Shield, is based on Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Although the threats leveled against our country and its people remain a deep concern both here on our own shores and abroad, we are sustained and reassured in the certainty that our omnipotent God is mindful of our petitions. As we humbly beseech His intervention, we can be sure that He hears our cries and willingly extends His grace and mercy to all those who seek His face.

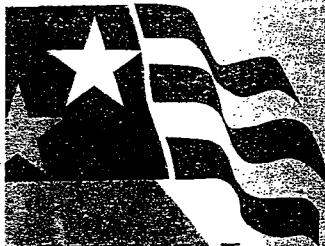
May I ask you to review and sign the enclosed draft of the 2008 Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer by April 25th? We would consider it an honor to highlight this statement, or a version of your own choosing, among our materials promoting this year's observance. Our 40,000 volunteer coordinators will be reading the proclamation at their events, and your declaration underscoring the need for corporate and personal intercession will lend tremendous prestige and credibility to these gatherings. In addition, we plan to release it to the media the week preceding May 1st.

Thank you in advance for considering this request, Mr. President. Your steadfast devotion to God and your faithfulness in prayer have been a source of great encouragement to me and, I know, to millions of others across the United States. All Americans have been blessed to have someone of your moral courage leading our nation throughout the last eight years. May the Lord's guidance and protection continue to rest on you, Mrs. Bush, and your staff in the coming days.

Sincerely,
Shirley Dobson
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*you have led the house
of righteousness high & we
are blessed to have
you as our
President*

EXHIBIT
tabbles
22



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- Mr. [Name]
- Director of Marketing & Operations
- Assistant to the Chairman
- National Coordinator
- Senior Staff Accountant
- National Advisory Committee
- Mr. Philip [Name]
- The Honorable Jim [Name]
- Bishop Philip [Name]
- Mr. Charles W. Colson
- James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
- The Honorable William [Name]
- The Honorable Tony P. Hall
- The Honorable Don Hodel
- The Honorable [Name]
- General [Name]
- The Honorable [Name]
- Ms. [Name]
- Indef. Charles W. [Name]
- The Honorable Joseph [Name]
- Ms. [Name]
- Mr. [Name]
- The Honorable [Name]
- Liaison:
- Pastor Max [Name]
- Rabbi Bruce [Name]
- Rev. Robert [Name]

March 1, 2007

America, UNITE in Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14

The Honorable George W. Bush
 President of the United States
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
 Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! It has been an honor each year to present the American people with proclamations declaring the support of our country's leaders for the National Day of Prayer. In that spirit, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for coming alongside the NDP Task Force in this manner for over a decade – first as Governor of Texas and now as our President. As Thursday, May 3rd is on the horizon, I ask that you, once again, join us in proclaiming the importance of this occasion.

Our theme, **America, Unite in Prayer**, is based on our foundational verse, II Chronicles 7:14, which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Given the trials of this age and the troubles we face as "strangers in the world" (I Peter 1:1), how good it is to know that our distress is tempered by our assurance in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the cries of His children. As we humble ourselves before the Lord, we can look to the future in eager anticipation, confident that He is at work.

In keeping with tradition, I hope you will review the enclosed draft of the 2007 Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer and return it – or an alternative of your choosing – with your signature. It would be a privilege to be able to include your proclamation in our promotional materials. Your ongoing participation lends special significance to the day's events, and a signed declaration will do much to advance the cause of prayer. Undoubtedly it will inspire others to get involved on a personal level, as well.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my request, Mr. President. Your resolute commitment to God and the conviction that has long underscored your presidency have been a deep encouragement to me. I know America has benefited greatly from your moral leadership. May God bless you and your staff abundantly as you continue to faithfully serve our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
 Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

(2)

EXHIBIT 23

COPY

Dear :

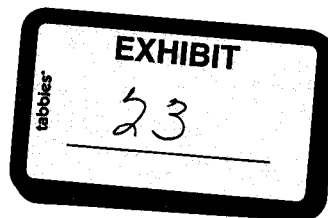
A warm greeting from Colorado Springs! It is hard to believe that our 2008 National Day of Prayer observance is just a few short months away. As we continue to make final preparations, I trust you are in prayer as I am, asking God to again bless our efforts with a wonderful outpouring of intercession as millions of people gather to ask for the Almighty's intervention on behalf of our beloved country.

With each passing year, it becomes increasingly clear that our leaders and fellow citizens are contending with a vast and unprecedented array of threats to our safety and freedom. As our nation experienced a similar crisis in its infancy, the Continental Congress called for a nationwide fast. Their powerful and inspiring statement exhorted the American people "in times of impending calamity and distress ... to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger..." This keen awareness of our reliance upon God is reflected in our Task Forces' 2008 theme, **Prayer! America's Strength and Shield**, based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

In our endeavors to lead our fellow Americans to the throne of mercy and grace, it is especially vital that we enlist the support and affirmation of our country's leaders. With this in mind, we encourage you to join us in seeking an official, written proclamation from your governor declaring May 1st as a National Day of Prayer. Please schedule an appointment soon with your governor in order to personally request a proclamation. If you're unable to do so, you may send a letter similar to the enclosed sample. We are asking our State Coordinators to help ensure that all proclamations are returned to our offices by **April 1st** so that we may prepare a special bound volume that will be presented to President Bush.

We'd also like to urge you to invite your governor to attend an NDP observance. If one is being held on the steps of the Capitol, such an assembly would be particularly suited for the governor's presence. It's important to bear in mind, however, that any NDP event taking place in such a visible and distinguished location should be well-attended and executed in a way that positively reflects the endeavors of both your state's NDP efforts and those of our Task Force. Toward that end, as you prepare to seek a proclamation from your governor and organize a gathering at which he or she may be present, we recommend that you solicit the assistance and advice of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. You may also find it useful to discuss ideas with your National Area Leader.

Deepest thanks for your dedicated labors on behalf of prayer for our country. You are truly having an eternal impact, and I'm confident that our events May 1st will yield abundant fruit as people throughout America lift their voices to heaven. May God richly bless you and multiply all that you undertake in His service!



COPY

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosure

(4)

EXHIBIT 24

January 22, 2009

COPY

<Name>
<Street Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear <Name>:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful Christmas season and are looking ahead to all 2009 has in store! Now that the new year has arrived, we are closing in on the last several months of preparations for the National Day of Prayer on May 7th. The overwhelming response last year was deeply encouraging, and we anticipate even greater involvement as more individuals come to recognize the deep needs of a hurting nation.

As you well know, throughout its history, there have been many times when America has faced grave dangers and troubles. Although spoken over two centuries ago, the words of Thomas Jefferson in 1781 which are now engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflect the importance of our nation relying on the Almighty for help and guidance as we traverse stormy waters. Bemoaning the state of the infant republic, he said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God." Today, our trials may be different from those of our Forefathers, but like them, we must remain committed to seeking our Heavenly Father's wisdom and mercy. And when we do come before His throne, we can be confident that He will hear the petitions of His children. It is in that spirit that we chose, Prayer...America's Hope! as our theme for 2009. It is my great hope that millions will turn to God and pray in accord with Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

As in the past, it is critical that we garner the support of our nation's leaders for our efforts. In your role as a State Coordinator, we ask that you help in obtaining a written proclamation from your governor declaring May 7 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to do so, we encourage you to schedule a personal visit to your governor's office. If this is not possible, we suggest that you send a letter similar to the enclosed example. We ask that all proclamations are received at our office by April 1 so that we may have them bound for presentation to President Obama.

We also urge you to invite your governor to actively participate in an NDP observance, most appropriately on the steps of the Capitol building. In order to maintain your credibility – and that of the NDP Task Force – it is imperative that such an event involve a well-organized, substantial assembly. As you consider how best to approach such a proposal, consider enlisting the aid of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. For additional ideas, feel free to get in touch with your National Area Leader.

EXHIBIT

tabbles

24

Again, thank you for your ongoing commitment to furthering the cause of prayer. Know that you are making a difference in hearts and lives for the future good of our country. As Ronald Reagan said, "The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America...our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal." May God's joy be yours as you serve Him at this crucial hour in history!

Every blessing,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

EXHIBIT 25

2006

COPY

<Name>
<Address 1>
<City>, <State> <Zip code>

Dear <Name>:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! With the start of every new year comes a sense of anticipation and wonder at the Lord's enduring providence, and 2006 is no exception. As Lamentations 3:23 says, *great* is His faithfulness, and indeed, we are truly blessed to have yet another opportunity to join hands and come before the throne of grace on behalf of our country.

As we approach this year's observance of the National Day of Prayer, I trust you, too, are looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store. Our theme, **America, Honor God**, is especially fitting in view of the ongoing challenges Americans have faced at home and abroad these last months. It serves as a powerful reminder that our country's allegiance should rest in the Lord above all else. Even in the midst of inevitable trials, we, as a nation, must seek Him in a spirit of humility and respect, heeding the promise of I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor."

Given the significance of this message, I hope you will work alongside us to ensure that we receive a written proclamation from the governor of your state or territory, declaring May 4, 2006 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to obtain this commemorative document, please take a moment to send a letter to your governor similar to the sample enclosed. Each proclamation will be bound in a commemorative book to be presented to President Bush on May 4. To make certain that our volume for the President is completed on time, it is important that we receive this proclamation by **April 3**. Don't hesitate to contact your National Area Leader with any questions you may have.

In addition, we encourage you to invite your governor to join with you in a local prayer gathering. Ideally, this event should be held on the steps of the state Capitol building. If you do choose to host a special assembly of this nature with your governor, be sure that the observance is well planned and involves a sizeable crowd so that we are able to maintain credibility with the governor's office.

Again, thank you for your dedication to NDP and more importantly to prayer. In the words of Oswald Chambers, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work." May God bless you abundantly as you seek to honor Him in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosure

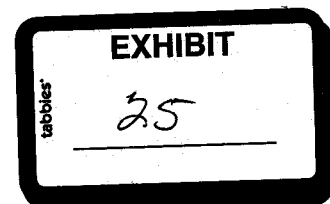


EXHIBIT 26

January 25, 2007

«Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Address»
«City», «State_» «Zipcode»

COPY

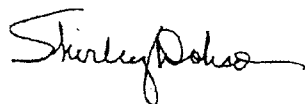
Dear «First_Name»:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! May 3 is fast approaching, and preparations are well underway for the National Day of Prayer 2007. Last year, we were deeply encouraged by the overwhelming response we received from people coast to coast, and we anticipate even greater involvement as more individuals come to recognize the deep needs of a hurting nation.

As you well know, the gravity of the troubles facing America is not new. In 1781, Thomas Jefferson bemoaned the state of an infant republic saying, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Today, we may face different trials than those of our forefathers, but we are not far removed from the desperation of Jefferson's sentiments. How good it is to know, then, that our distress is tempered by our confidence in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the petitions of His children. It is in that spirit that we've chosen, America, Unite in Prayer as our theme for 2007. It is my great hope that millions will turn their hearts toward God in accord with 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

As we call on our fellow citizens to come before the Lord, it is critical that we garner the support of our nation's leaders. As a State Coordinator, we need your help in obtaining a written proclamation from your governor declaring May 3 as a National Day of Prayer. In order to do so, we encourage you to schedule a personal visit to your governor's office. If this is not possible, we suggest that you send a letter similar to the enclosed example. We ask that all proclamations are received by April 1 so that we may have them bound for presentation to President Bush. We also urge you to invite your governor to actively participate in an NDP observance, most appropriately on the steps of the Capitol building. In order to maintain your credibility – and that of the NDP Task Force – it is imperative that such an event involve a well-organized, substantial assembly. As you consider how best to approach such a proposal, consider enlisting the aid of a personal friend of the governor, a staff member, or his or her pastor. For additional ideas, feel free to get in touch with your National Area Leader.

Again, thank you for your commitment to furthering the cause of prayer. Know that you are making a difference in hearts and lives for the future good of our country. As Billy Graham said, "To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees." May God bless you abundantly!
Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

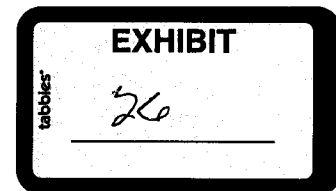


EXHIBIT 27

Let Freedom Ring

The freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, the freedom to pray

January 22, 2004

Dear State/Regional Coordinator:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer headquarters! It seems hard to believe that 2004 is already well underway. Yet, here we are, and the final plans for our May 6 NDP events are now being made. What a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the significance of this historic observance and the tremendous impact it can have on our great country. In the words of Pastor J. Sidlow Baxter, "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." During the months ahead, both individually and corporately, we will no doubt experience times of great joy; but, we likely will also face unforeseen and difficult challenges. Whatever circumstance we encounter, however, we can have confidence that God's faithful presence and inexorable strength are with us as we call on His name.

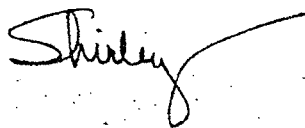
In light of this truth, it is particularly noteworthy that at our country's inception there was a clear mandate to protect citizens' religious freedoms and to create an atmosphere where prayer in the public square was not only acceptable, but embraced. This year's NDP theme, "Let Freedom Ring" allows us the opportunity to punctuate once again the importance of vigilance in maintaining these cherished rights that undergird American life: the freedom to gather, to worship, and to pray. That's why we urge you to join with us to ensure that every state and territorial governor writes a proclamation or formal declaration affirming their support for this May's National Day of Prayer. To initiate this process, we ask that you schedule a personal visit with your governor to make the request. If you are simply unable to do so, we recommend that you send a letter similar to the sample enclosed.

In addition to obtaining a signed declaration, we hope you will also seek your governor's participation at a local prayer gathering. Ideally, such an event will be held on the steps of the Capitol building. (Do be sure, however, that you have the resources and attendance for a sizeable rally; otherwise, NDP may lose credibility with the governor's office.) You might find it helpful to enlist the help of the governor's pastor or one of his or her personal friends to assist you in encouraging the governor's involvement.

We deeply appreciate your willingness to accept these key responsibilities on behalf of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. It is imperative that all proclamations be received at our offices by **April 1** so that we may have them bound to present to President Bush. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your National Area Leader.

Again, we can't thank you enough for your tireless dedication; the work you're doing today is making an eternal difference! May God richly bless you as together we proclaim the power of prayer throughout this land.

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/ssd

Enclosure

Isaiah 61:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

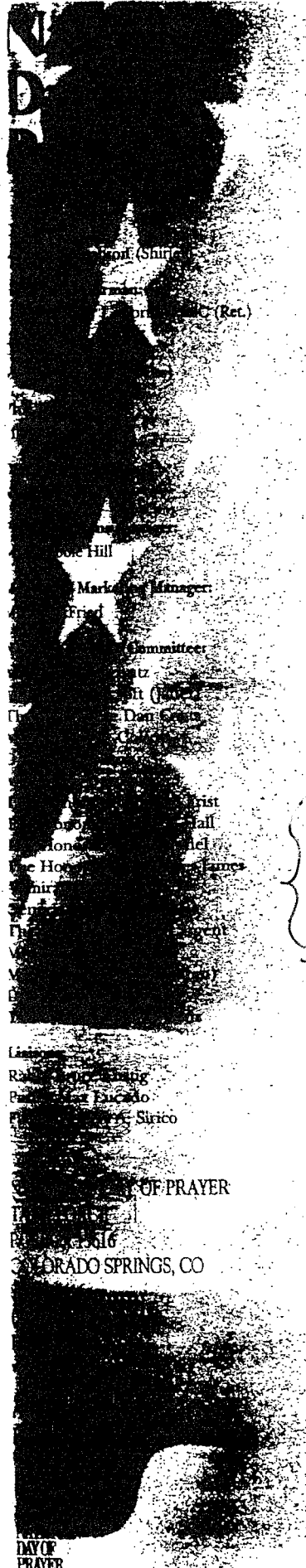
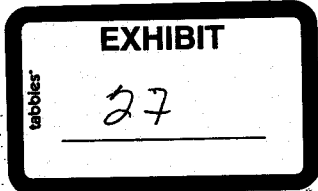


EXHIBIT 28

January 22, 2009

<Name>
<Street Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Last Name>:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Each year since 1952 when Congress established an annual day of prayer, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our nation. These are extremely difficult times our country is facing from economic turmoil to the threat of terrorism to moral confusion and decline. It behooves us at this critical juncture to again honor the precedent established by Presidents and leaders throughout our history, that of proclaiming reliance on an Almighty God and calling Americans to come before Him on behalf of our nation.

The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered in 1781 and found engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflect our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of the infant republic, he said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the Gift of God." Today, our trials and challenges to freedom may be different, but our need to remember the truth of Jefferson's sentiments remains. How good it is to know that, despite the distress we are experiencing, we can come confidently before the Almighty, knowing that He is merciful and has promised to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, our NDP Task Force has chosen PRAYER... AMERICA'S HOPE as our theme for 2009, based on Psalm 33: 22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support through a public proclamation declaring May 7, 2009 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor in the nation did so as well. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to the NDP Task Force headquarters before April 1, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <name> who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Obama. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our Senior Manager, National Coordinator Network at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor <last name>, and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you faithfully serve the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
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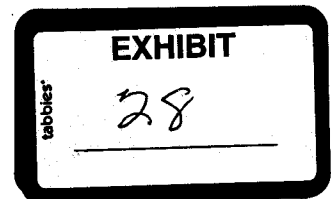


EXHIBIT 29

COPY

January 8, 2008

<Name>
<Street Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <Name>:

A warm greeting to you from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! In an historic declaration in 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer during which people throughout the United States were encouraged to pause in repentance and intercession for our nation. Each year since then, millions of Americans have assembled in various venues to seek the Lord's guidance, protection and blessing upon our land and its people. In light of the unprecedented challenges and threats facing our leaders and fellow citizens today, it's particularly important that we continue to ask for the Almighty's intervention on behalf of our country.

In a 1776 document in which the Continental Congress called for a national fast, Americans were exhorted "in times of impending calamity and distress ... to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger..." It is with this keen awareness of our reliance upon God that we have selected our 2008 theme, **Prayer! America's Strength and Shield**. The underlying scripture is Psalm 28:7, which declares, "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

As has become customary, we ask that you acknowledge the historic role that prayer has played in our nation by issuing a statement proclaiming May 1, 2008 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this observance has been recognized and endorsed annually by the President of the United States. Last year, every governor also acknowledged this day, including those in our U.S. territories. May we ask you to lend your support to this important event as well? Please send a copy of your official proclamation to us here at NDP headquarters before **April 1**, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you in the near future. Each governor's statement will be included in a special bound volume that will be presented to President Bush. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803. You may also reach her via e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

Your consideration of our request is deeply appreciated, Governor <Name>
We look forward to hearing from you. Until then, may God grant you and your staff abundant measures of wisdom and discernment in your continued service to the people of <State>!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
SD/rw

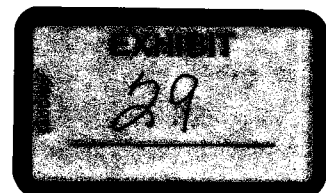


EXHIBIT 30

EXHIBIT

13

January 24, 2006

<Name>
<Address 1>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! We are quickly approaching yet another National Day of Prayer, and I consider it an honor to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our country.

We're convinced that our theme for this year, America, Honor God, will serve as a valuable reminder that the Lord is at work in this great land and is deserving of our veneration and absolute trust. Whether facing difficulties at home or overseas, we hope people will look to the promise found in I Samuel 2:30: "Those who honor me I will honor." With your support, we can further our efforts to call the nation to prayer, acknowledging our Creator and asking for guidance and protection on behalf of our families, our government, and our armed forces.

Will you join with us in this endeavor by issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer for <State>? It has become customary for the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to officially endorse the National Day of Prayer, and we hope you will do the same this year.

We respectfully request that you send your proclamation to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by April 1. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with more details. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at bobbie.hill@fotf.org.

We look forward to hearing from you. Your proclamation will be a meaningful contribution to this year's NDP observance, and to the people of <State>. May God bless you and your staff in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

EXHIBIT

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30

EXHIBIT 31

January 24, 2006

COPY

<Name>
<Address 1>
<City>, <State> <Zip Code>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! We are quickly approaching yet another National Day of Prayer, and I consider it an honor to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our country.

We're convinced that our theme for this year, **America, Honor God**, will serve as a valuable reminder that the Lord is at work in this great land and is deserving of our veneration and absolute trust. Whether facing difficulties at home or overseas, we hope people will look to the promise found in I Samuel 2:30: "~~Those who honor me I will honor.~~" With your support, we can further our efforts to call the nation to prayer, acknowledging our Creator and asking for guidance and protection on behalf of our families, our government, and our armed forces.

Will you join with us in this endeavor by issuing a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 4, 2006, as a Day of Prayer for <State>? It has become customary for the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to officially endorse the National Day of Prayer, and we hope you will do the same this year.

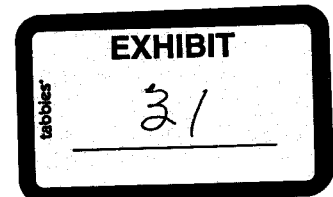
We respectfully request that you send your proclamation to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 3**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with more details. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at bobbie.hill@fotf.org.

We look forward to hearing from you. Your proclamation will be a meaningful contribution to this year's NDP observance, and to the people of <State>. May God bless you and your staff in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

(1)



<Name>
<Address>
<Address>
<City> <Zip>

Dear Governor <>;

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! Yet another National Day of Prayer is right around the corner, and it is my privilege to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our nation.

In preparation for this observance, each year the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you issue a proclamation urging the people of <State> to assemble on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in order to pray for our nation's leaders and citizens.

To ensure that a proclamation from your office is incorporated in this year's observance, we respectfully request that you take the following steps:

- After completing your proclamation, return a copy to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 1**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our <State> State Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with further details.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at hillbr@fotf.org. Bobbie would be happy to field any inquiries you may have.

The 2005 theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Given the many challenges facing our country and its people, it seems particularly fitting that we should gather to request the Almighty's intervention as we respond to the threats confronting us – both within our borders and overseas.

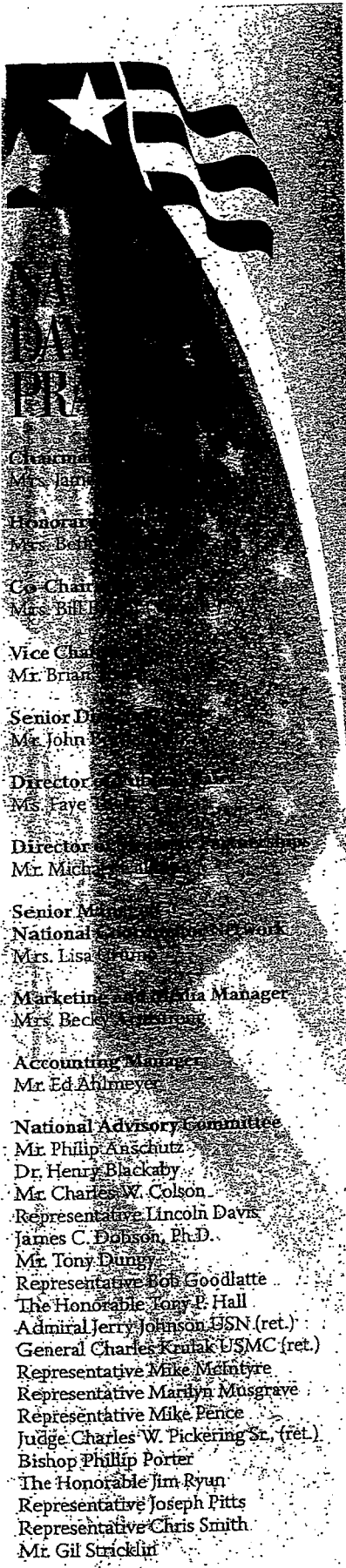
Thank you in advance for lending your support to our NDP observance, Governor <Name>. Your participation will not only be a valuable addition to our May 5 events, but it will come as an encouragement to the people of <State>. God bless you and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

(2)

EXHIBIT 32



February 27, 2009

The Honorable Michele Bachmann
United States House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bachmann:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am to hear that you have agreed to participate in our NDP observance May 7th in Washington, D.C. Our Task Force looks forward to the special events surrounding this historic gathering every year, and I trust you'll find this time of corporate intercession and worship meaningful and uplifting.

The theme for 2009 is Prayer ... America's Hope, based on Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." There is certainly no better time than now to point Americans to the eternal Source of encouragement and help. With the very fabric of our great land and its institutions under siege, our desire is for this message to be a catalyst, drawing people closer to God for guidance, not only for the needs of their community and nation, but for their own concerns.

In 1988 when Congress set aside the first Thursday in May for all citizens to pray, in accord with their beliefs, these government leaders affirmed the country's heritage of public intercession that began with our Founding Fathers. In addition, they paid homage to the untold number of occasions when presidents and other esteemed national figures have initiated calls to prayer and proclaimed days of thanksgiving and intercession. For example, President Franklin Roosevelt read a lengthy prayer on live radio the morning of D-Day in Normandy. It was a passionate plea for God's mercy and for victory over the enemies of freedom and justice.

With this history in mind, it saddens us to report that there recently have been some outspoken critics that have opposed the National Day of Prayer. A ban is currently being sought in *Freedom From Religion Foundation v. George W. Bush, and Shirley Dabson, et al.* It is being defended by the United States Department of Justice and the Alliance Defense Fund. Efforts to impose such restrictions underscore the need to press forward in our efforts to ensure that religious freedom is preserved as a hallmark of our nation.

EXHIBIT

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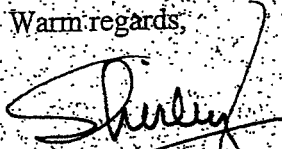
Representative Bachmann
February 27, 2009
Page 2

As you prepare your message for our upcoming observance, we ask that you briefly describe how prayer has played a valuable role in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the legislative branch of government in the days ahead. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 9:57 a.m., and be approximately ten minutes in length. I have enclosed the program from the 2008 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer, for your review.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and your husband, Marcus, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, May 6th, at the J.W. Marriott. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

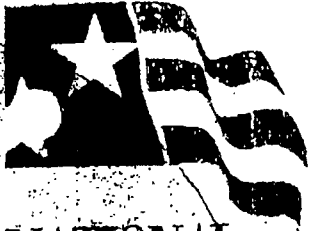
Thank you, Representative Bachmann, for your commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact NDP Public Relations Director Faye Tharp. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or by email at Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Until then, abundant blessings to you!

Warm regards,

 *Shirley* & *Theresa 5:17*
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosures



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Chairman
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman
Mrs. Beth Moore

Co-Chairman
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vivette)

Vice Chairman
Mr. Brian Toon

Senior Director
Mr. John Boruschein

Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Eaye Tharp

Director of Strategic Partnerships
Mr. Michael Calhoun

**Senior Manager
National Coordinator Network**
Mrs. Lisa Crump

Marketing and Media Manager
Mrs. Becky Armstrong

Accounting Manager
Mr. Ed Alhmyer

National Advisory Committee
Mr. Philip Anselmi
Dr. Henry Blackaby
Mr. Charles W. Colson
Representative Lincoln Davis
James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
Mr. Tony Dungy
Representative Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Tony F. Hall
Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)
General Charles Keelak USMC (ret.)
Representative Mike McIntyre
Representative Marilyn Musgrave
Representative Mike Pence
Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. (ret.)
Bishop Phillip Porter
The Honorable Jim Ryan
Representative Joseph Pitts
Representative Clark Smith
Mr. Bill Stucklin

April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert S. Mueller, III
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! I'd like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation for you to participate in our NDP observance May 7th in Washington, D.C. Our Task Force looks forward to the special events surrounding this historic gathering every year, and it would be a privilege to include you in this time of corporate intercession and worship.

The theme for 2009 is **Prayer ... America's Hope**, based on Psalm 33:22, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." There is certainly no better time than now to point Americans to the eternal Source of encouragement and help. With the very fabric of our great land and its institutions under siege, our desire is for this message to be a catalyst, drawing people closer to God for guidance, not only for the needs of their community and nation, but for their own concerns.

In 1988 when Congress set aside the first Thursday in May for all citizens to pray, in accord with their beliefs, these government leaders affirmed the country's heritage of public intercession that began with our Founding Fathers. In addition, they paid homage to the untold number of occasions when presidents and other esteemed national figures have initiated calls to prayer and proclaimed days of thanksgiving and intercession. For example, President Franklin Roosevelt read a lengthy prayer on live radio the morning of D-Day in Normandy. It was a passionate plea for God's mercy and for victory over the enemies of freedom and justice.

With this history in mind, it saddens us to report that there recently have been some outspoken critics that have opposed the National Day of Prayer. A ban is currently being sought in *Freedom From Religion Foundation v. George W. Bush, and Shirley Dobson, et al.* It is being defended by the United States Department of Justice and the Alliance Defense Fund. Efforts to impose such restrictions underscore the need to

Mr. Mueller
April 3, 2009
Page 2

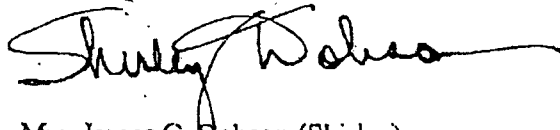
press forward in our efforts to ensure that religious freedom is preserved as a hallmark of our nation.

If you are able to share a message for our upcoming observance, we ask that you briefly describe how prayer has played a valuable role in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the men and women serving our nation's intelligence agencies in the days ahead. Your ten-minute portion of the program would begin at 9:42 a.m. or 11:24 a.m., based upon which time slot most suits your schedule. There will be with a brief introduction prior to your presentation along with a couple of minutes set aside following your remarks for those in attendance to pray. I have enclosed the program from the 2008 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer, for your review.

In the event that you are able to accept our invitation, I would like to urge you and your wife, Ann, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, May 6th, at the J.W. Marriott. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

Thank you, Mr. Mueller, for considering our request. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact NDP Public Relations Director Faye Tharp. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or by email at Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Until then, abundant blessings to you!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rw

Enclosures

Thank you for considering partnering with us in calling the nation to prayer.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

August 8, 2008

Father Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain
House of Representatives
HB-25 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman
Mrs. Beth Moore

Co-Chairman
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)

Vice Chairman
Mr. Brian Toon

Senior Director
Mr. John Bornschein

Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Faye Tharp

Director of Strategic Partnerships
Mr. Michael Calhoun

Senior Manager
National Coordinator Network
Mrs. Lisa Crump

Marketing and Media Manager
Mrs. Becky Armstrong

Accounting Manager
Mr. Ed. Ahlmeyer

National Advisory Committee
Mr. Philip Anschutz
Dr. Henry Blackaby
Mr. Charles W. Colson
Representative Lincoln Davis
James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
Mr. Tony Dungy
Representative Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Tony P. Hall
Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)
General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)
Representative Mike McIntyre
Representative Marilyn Musgrave
Representative Mike Pence
Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., (ret.)
Bishop Phillip Porter
The Honorable Jim Ryun
Representative Joseph Pitts
Representative Chris Smith
Mr. Gil Stricklin

Dear Father Coughlin:

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! I'd like to take this opportunity to follow up on your recent conversation with Faye Tharp, our Director of Public Affairs, by reiterating our invitation for you to participate in the 2009 National Day of Prayer observance held on Capitol Hill. As you are aware, for many years our Task Force has facilitated this special gathering, and plans are already underway for our program on May 7th. The Cannon House Office Building event is symbolic of thousands of others that will take place throughout the country. Next year, as in the past, we expect overflow crowds to fill the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion.

The annual National Day of Prayer has become a significant expression of religious freedom in the lives of millions of Americans not only stateside, but on military bases and at embassies around the world. Next year's observance will mark the 58th anniversary of this important day. Our theme for 2009 is "Prayer ... America's Hope!", based on Psalm 33:22 which states, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You." During these challenging times, it has been encouraging to see the tremendous outpouring of prayer as people have lifted our beloved land and its leaders before the Almighty. The coming year's theme reflects our conviction that hope for our future is found only through God's mercy and provision as His people humble themselves before His throne.

Father Coughlin, it would be a distinct privilege to have you join us on May 7th at the Cannon House event by providing the opening prayer to commence our assembly. Your involvement has been a wonderful addition to our efforts in the past, and I know that our attendees would appreciate having you lead us in a time of intercession once again. Faye is available to answer any questions you may have. She can be reached by phone at 719/268-4802 or via e-mail at Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org.

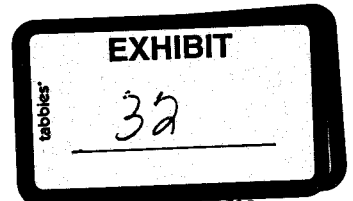
Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

You participation is always a blessing!

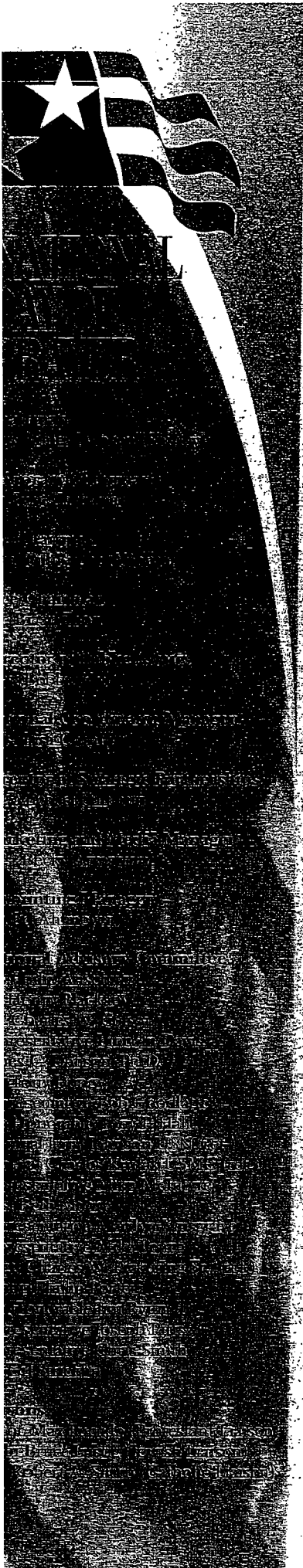
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EXHIBIT 33

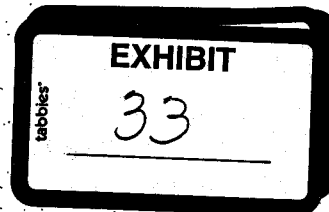


Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 4, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable Mike McIntyre
United States House of Representatives
2437 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative McIntyre:

A warm greeting to you from Colorado Springs! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how delighted we are that you've agreed to represent the legislative branch of our government during our Capitol Hill prayer observance on May 1, 2008. For many years, our Task Force has facilitated this special prayer gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of intercession for our beloved country. Last year, as in the past, overflow crowds filled the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion.

As you prepare your message, we ask that you include a brief description of the significant role prayer has played in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the legislature in the days ahead. You may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." You are tentatively scheduled to be introduced at 12:50 p.m., and you are slated to speak for approximately ten minutes. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance for your review, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and Dee to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge your participation and pray for you along with the rest of the speakers.

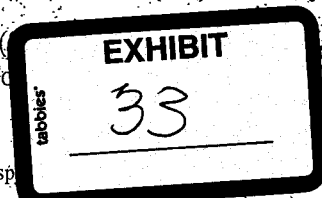
Thank you, Representative McIntyre, for demonstrating a commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

Pls. Rsp



I trusted you will be participating in our National Day of Prayer.

Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

March 17, 2008

EXHIBIT

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33

Chaplain Barry C. Black
Office of the Chaplain
United States Senate
SROB-332 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chaplain Black:

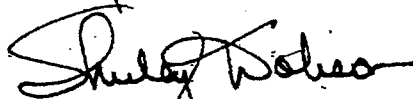
Warm greetings! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how delighted we are that you'll be joining us once again to lead a time of intercession during our Capitol Hill NDP observance on May 1, 2008. As you know, our Task Force has for many years facilitated this special gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of prayer for our beloved country.

As you prepare the text of your prayer for our upcoming observance, you may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 1:20, and be approximately eight to ten minutes in length. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer as background. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you and your wife, Brenda, to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge and pray for you along with the other participants.

Thank you, Chaplain Black, for demonstrating an ongoing deep commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty and encouraging others to do so. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dabson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

*You're always
a blessing. Thank
for participating in
our National Day of
Prayer. See you soon*

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www.nationaldayofprayer.org

See 5:17

(2)

Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART
TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Department of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20240

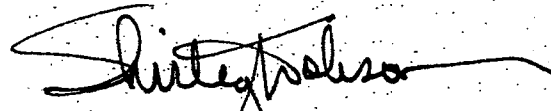
Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Greetings from Colorado Springs! Now that the dust has settled following our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C., I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your participation. You shared a powerful message during our Cannon House program, and I have no doubt everyone present was impacted by your inspiring words.

It was tremendously uplifting to see so many leaders, dignitaries and fellow citizens come together to intercede on behalf of America, and this impressive turnout in our nation's capital was representative of thousands of observances taking place around the country. I trust you were as encouraged as I was to know that millions of people were approaching God's throne on May 1st to seek His guidance and protection on our land. You played a meaningful role in this endeavor, and my team and I are honored by your involvement in our efforts.

Thanks again for representing the Executive Branch of government during this year's NDP observance, Secretary Kempthorne. May the Lord's joy accompany all that you undertake in His service.

Every blessing!

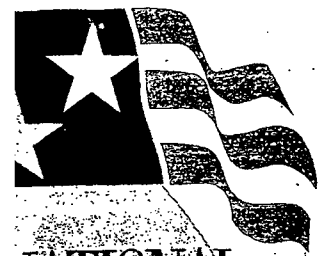


Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rwj

*Thank you for
supporting our
national Day of Prayer!*

(3)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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James C. Dobson (Shirley)

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Karl Zacharias

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Representative Lincoln Davis

Mes C. Dobson, Ph.D.

Tony Dungy

Representative Bob Goodlatte

Honorable Tony P. Hall

Rear Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)

General Charles Krutak USMC (ret.)

Representative Mike McIntyre

Beth Moore

Representative Marilyn Musgrave

Representative Mike Pence

Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. (ret.)

Shop Phillip Porter

Honorable Jim Ryan

Representative Joseph Pitts

Representative Chris Smith

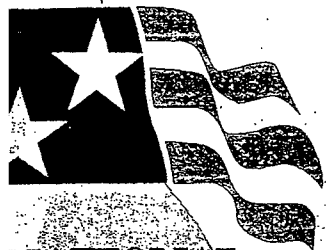
Gil Stricklin

Liaisons

Director Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)

Abbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)

Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)
- Honorary Chairman
Mrs. Kay Zaccaria
- Co-Chairman
Mrs. Bill Brubaker (Vonette)
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Mr. Brian Boon
- Director of Public Affairs
Mrs. Bobbie Hill
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 - Representative Lincoln Davis
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 - Mr. Tony Dungy
 - Representative Bob Goodlatte
 - Mr. Honorable Tony P. Hall
 - Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)
 - General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)
 - Representative Mike McIntyre
 - Mrs. Beth Moore
 - Representative Marilyn Musgrave
 - Representative Mike Pence
 - Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr. (ret.)
 - Shop: Phillip Porter
 - Mr. Honorable Jim Ryan
 - Representative Joseph Pitts
 - Representative Chris Smith
 - Mr. Gil Stricklin
- Liaisons
 - Mr. Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)
 - Mr. Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)
 - Mr. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
1433 Longworth House
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Aderholt:

Greetings from Colorado Springs! Now that the dust has settled following our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C., I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your participation. Your willingness to urge your fellow congressmen to attend our Cannon House observance means a great deal to our entire staff, and we continue to value the time and energy that you invest in serving as our Task Force's liaison to Capitol Hill. It was a special privilege, as well, to have you and Caroline attend our reception on Wednesday evening. I do hope you enjoyed yourselves and found the event meaningful.

It was tremendously uplifting to see so many leaders, dignitaries and fellow citizens come together to intercede on behalf of America, and this impressive turnout in our nation's capital was representative of thousands of observances taking place around the country. I trust you were as encouraged as I was to know that millions of people were approaching God's throne on May 1st to seek His guidance and protection on our land. You played a significant role in this endeavor, and my team and I are honored by your continued faithful involvement in our efforts.

Thanks again for lending such active support to the cause of prayer, Representative Aderholt. May the Lord's joy accompany all that you undertake in His service.

Every blessing!

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/rwj

We deeply appreciate your friendship and support of our National Day of Prayer. It has been a pleasure working with you. Blessings!

4

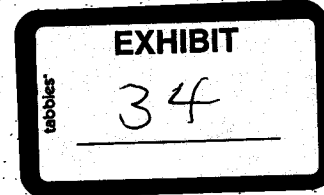
EXHIBIT 34

Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

March 5, 2008

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED. PSALM 28:7

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20520



Dear Secretary Rice:

Warm greetings! On behalf of our entire National Day of Prayer Task Force staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how honored we are that you've agreed to represent the executive branch of government during our Capitol Hill prayer observance on May 1, 2008. For many years, our Task Force has facilitated this special prayer gathering, and we are anticipating another meaningful time of intercession for our beloved country. Last year, as in the past, overflow crowds filled the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways in order to take part in this historic occasion which exemplifies the thousands of events being held stateside and at various sites around the world.

As you prepare your message, we ask that you include a brief description of the significant role prayer has played in your personal and professional life, and how we might pray for the executive branch in the days ahead. You may find it helpful to keep in mind our 2008 theme, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield." This theme was inspired by Psalm 28:7, which states, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." You are tentatively scheduled to be introduced at 12:35 p.m., and you are slated to speak for approximately ten minutes. I have enclosed the program from the 2007 Cannon House observance for your review, as well as the history of the National Day of Prayer. Also, Faye Tharp, NDP's Director of Public Affairs, will be e-mailing information soon that contains further details about our event.

Before closing, I would like to urge you to attend our reception on Wednesday evening, April 30, at the Willard Hotel Ballroom. Even if you can only stop by for a short time, it would give us an opportunity to acknowledge your participation and pray for you along with the rest of the speakers.

Thank you, Secretary Rice, for demonstrating a commitment to lifting our land and its people before the Almighty through your willingness to take time away from your extremely hectic schedule to join us. We are deeply grateful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Faye at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May! Meanwhile, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Johnson".

Mrs. James C. Johnson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

*Shirley you will
be participating
in our national
day of prayer*

EXHIBIT 35

America, UNITE in Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14

February 1, 2007

Secretary Jim Nicholson
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Nicholson,

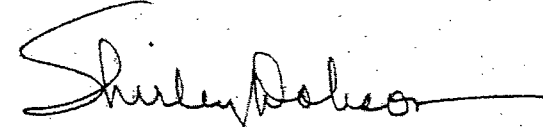
Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! Here at the Task Force headquarters, our staff is busy with preparations for the 56th annual National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. As you may know, the National Day of Prayer has been an important historical celebration of America's First Amendment freedoms to gather, worship, and pray since its institution in 1952. This year, our theme is **America, Unite in Prayer**, drawn from II Chronicles 7:14: *"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."*

Secretary Nicholson, we'd be honored if you would join us for our National Observance at the Cannon House Office Building on Thursday, May 3 as our Executive Branch speaker. In this role, we ask that you share the prayer needs of our nation's Executive Branch, as well as importance of prayer in your personal and professional life. In past years, we've featured such influential leaders as Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Defense Mike Johanns, and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao. Your portion of the program would tentatively begin at 1:36 p.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. For your review, I've enclosed a copy of last year's Cannon program.

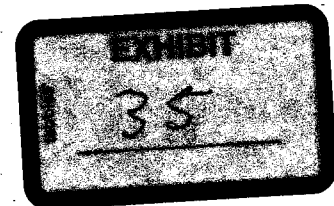
We'd also welcome your attendance at our Prayer Reception held on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for our Cannon participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Secretary Nicholson, I hope you'll prayerfully consider our invitation. It would be an honor to have your participation and leadership in our National Observance, and I look forward to discussing this opportunity. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Assistant to the Chairman, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to hearing from you! In the meantime, may God bless you richly as you continue in your service to God and country.

Every blessing,

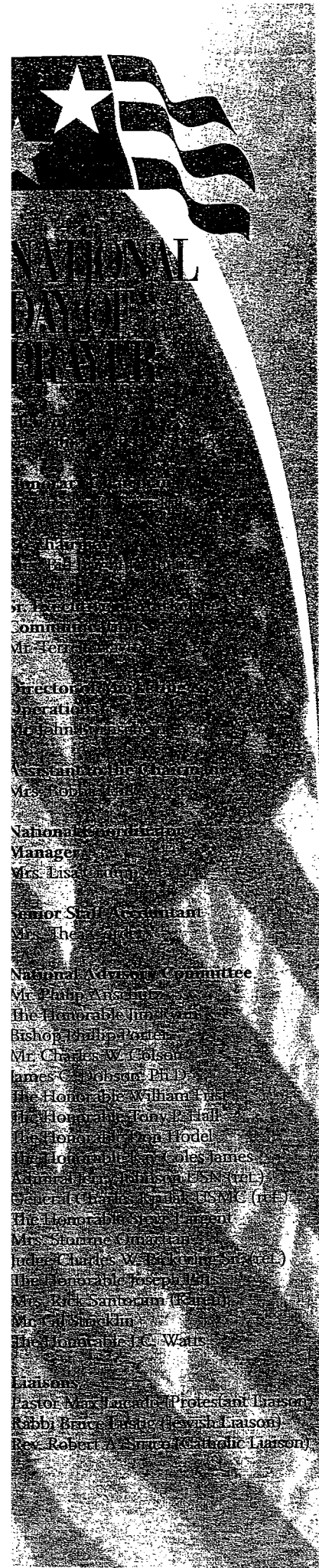


Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force



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Post Office Box 15616 ★ Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616 ★ (719) 531-3379 ★ Fax: (719) 548-4520



America, UNITE in Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14

January 19, 2007

Chaplain Daniel Coughlin
Chaplain of the House
HB - 25 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chaplain Coughlin,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! I trust you had a wonderful Christmas season celebrating our Lord's birth with your family and loved ones. Here at the Task Force Headquarters, our staff is busy preparing for America's 56th annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 3rd. This year, our theme is **America, Unite in Prayer**, drawn from II Chronicles 7:14; "*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*" We hope that this theme will inspire believers from coast to coast to gather before God's throne in repentance and praise.

Your participation in our 2005 National Observance was a great blessing to all in attendance. We'd be honored if you would join us, once again, for the Cannon House Observance in Washington, D.C. As the officiating chaplain, your portion of the program would include a greeting to those assembled as well as a prayer of blessing, beginning at 2:02 p.m. and lasting approximately five minutes. I have enclosed a program from last year's observance for your review.

Chaplain Coughlin, it would mean a great deal to us if you would accept our invitation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Assistant to the Chairman, at (719) 268-4802 or via email at bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org.

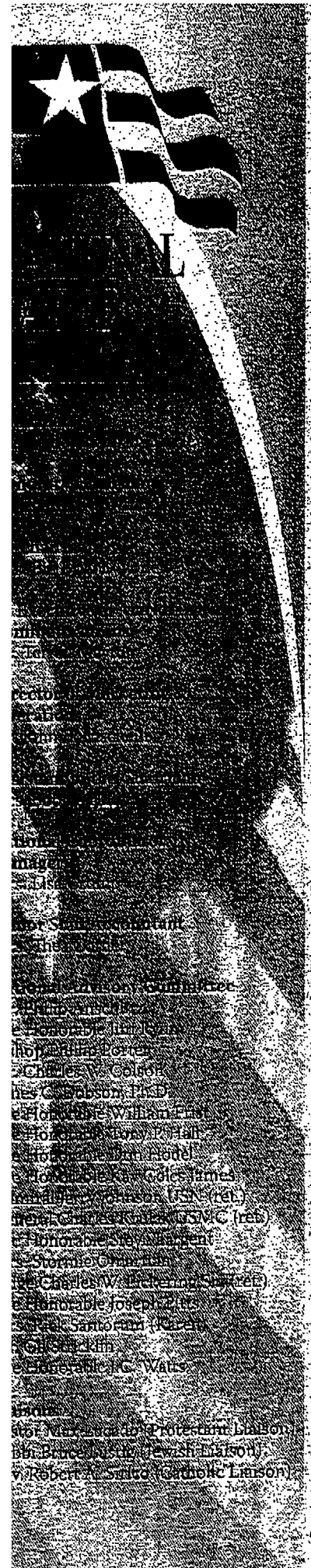
Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. We look forward to your reply. In the meantime, may God richly bless you in your service to our country!

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

I trust your heart is good and wish you every blessing in the new year.

If you can participate in NDP, 2007, it would be a blessing to the nation.



Director
Deputy Director
Assistant Director
Executive Director
Administrative Assistant
Office Manager
Secretary
Finance
Legal
Public Relations
Media
Communications
Special Projects
Program Development
Fundraising
Volunteer Management
Task Force
Advisory Board
Honorable James C. Dobson
Honorable William East
Honorable Tony P. Hall
Honorable Jim Hahn
Honorable Charles J. Stenholm
Honorable John Dingell
Honorable James M. Matheson (ret.)
Honorable Steve Largent
Honorable Charles W. Stenholm (ret.)
Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Honorable Sam Alibi (ret.)
Honorable J.C. Watts
Honorable Max Baucus (Protestant Bishop)
Honorable Russ Feingold (Catholic Bishop)
Honorable Robert A. Sarbanes (Catholic)
Honorable Eric Lipton (Catholic)

EXHIBIT 36

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Mike Rounds
Office of the Governor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Governor Rounds,

Warm greetings from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters in Colorado Springs! Yet another National Day of Prayer is right around the corner, and it is my privilege to extend an invitation for you to join us in observing this meaningful and historical occasion. In 1952 President Truman, with the support of Congress, officially established an annual, national day of prayer. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, permanently establishing the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer. This tradition has since become a cherished event as millions of Americans gather to beseech God's guidance and blessing upon our nation.

In preparation for this observance, each year the National Day of Prayer Task Force receives official statements of support from the President of the United States, as well as governors of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this in mind, we respectfully request that you issue a proclamation urging the people of South Dakota to assemble on Thursday, May 5, 2005, in order to pray for our nation's leaders and citizens.

To ensure that a proclamation from your office is incorporated in this year's observance, we respectfully request that you take the following steps:

- After completing your proclamation, return a copy to us here at NDP Task Force headquarters by **April 1**. (The copy we receive will be placed in a special commemorative book presented to President Bush that includes all proclamations from our states and territories.) We also ask that you prepare a *second* copy for our South Dakota Coordinator, who will be contacting you soon with further details.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Public Relations Manager, Mrs. Bobbie Hill, at 719/268-4802. She can also be reached via e-mail at hillbr@fotf.org. Bobbie would be happy to field any inquiries you may have.

The 2005 theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," inspired by the exhortation found in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Given the many challenges facing our country and its people, it seems particularly fitting that we should gather to request the Almighty's intervention as we respond to the threats confronting us – both within our borders and overseas.

Thank you in advance for lending your support to our NDP observance, Governor Rounds. Your participation will not only be a valuable addition to our May 5 events, but it will come as an encouragement to the people of South Dakota. God bless you and your staff in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

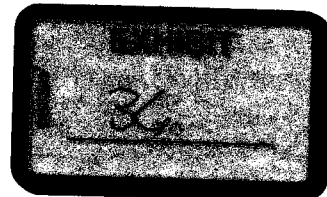


EXHIBIT 37

National Day of Prayer



February 28, 2005

Chairman:
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman:
Pastor Max Lucado

Co-chairman:
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)

Vice Chairman:
Mr. Jim Weidman

Director:
Mr. Rich Caldwell

Public Relations Manager:
Mrs. Debbie Hill

National Coordinator Manager:
Mr. Crum

Senior Staff Accountant:
Mrs. Ann Gorder

National Advisory Committee:
Mr. Richard Aschitz

Mrs. John Schmitt (Janet)

Mr. Robert Dan Coats

Mr. Robert W. Larson

Honorable William Krist

Honorable William Hahn

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

Honorable John Edwards

Honorable Trent Lott

Honorable J. C. Watts

Liaisons:
Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Pastor Max Lucado

Pastor Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
TASK FORCE

PO BOX 15616
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
80902

TEL 719-592-3379
FAX 719-592-4870
nationaldayofprayer.org

A project of the National
Committee, Inc.

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

A warm greeting to you from National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters! It was an honor and privilege for Jim and me to attend the Inauguration in January. It was clear from that event - as it has been throughout your time in office - that the Lord has placed His hand upon your administration, Mr. President, and we are thankful for your continued sensitivity to His leading.

As you know, the 2005 National Day of Prayer is fast approaching. This year's event will take place on Thursday, May 5, and our theme is **God Shed His Grace on Thee**. The supporting Scripture for 2005 comes from Hebrews 4:16, which reads: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." What an appropriate verse for these times! Last year, the National Day of Prayer saw its most widespread participation yet, with gatherings taking place in all 50 states as well as at military bases around the world. As always, your participation in the official national observance in Washington was a highlight for everyone. We're looking forward to what the Lord has in store this year!

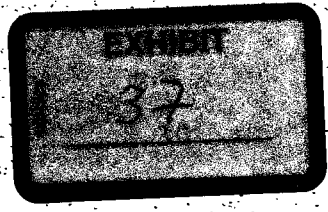
With that in mind, I have enclosed a proposed draft of the 2005 Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. I'm sure you know that for many Americans, the presidential proclamation is an important symbol and affirmation of this cherished annual observance. Please review the enclosed draft and return it - or an alternative of your choosing - with your signature. As in years past, we would very much like to incorporate your proclamation into our promotional materials.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, Mr. President, and for your ongoing commitment to prayer. Your deep faith continues to be an example to millions of Americans. Abundant grace and peace to you, your family and your staff in the coming days!

Sincerely,
Shirley Dobson

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

SD/dmd
"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."
Enclosure



Pls Rsp Re Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)



EXHIBIT 38

National Day of Prayer



February 28, 2005

- Chairman:**
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)
- Honorary Chairman:**
Pastor Max Lucado
- Co-chairman:**
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)
- Vice Chairman:**
Mr. Jim Weidmann
- Director:**
Mr. Rich Caldwell
- Public Relations Manager:**
Mrs. Bobbie Hill
- National Coordinator Manager:**
Mrs. Lisa Crump
- Senior Staff Accountant:**
Mrs. Thea Corder
- National Advisory Committee:**
Mr. Philip F. Anschutz
Mrs. John Ashcroft (Janet)
The Honorable Dan Coats
Mr. Charles W. Colson
Dr. James Dobson
Mrs. Annie Dunham
The Honorable William Frist
The Honorable Tony P. Hall
The Honorable Don Hodel
The Honorable Kay Coles James
Admiral Jerry Johnson
General Charles E. Krulak
The Honorable Steve Largent
Mrs. Stormie Omartian
Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karen)
Dr. Raleigh Washington
The Honorable J. C. Watts

Congressman Tom DeLay
2370 RHOB
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative DeLay,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! As May 5 approaches, the Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2005 National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year. Your participation and support mean a great deal to me, and I trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting.

Our theme for 2005, **God Shed His Grace on Thee**, is based on Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Even in these challenging times, the overwhelming grace of God's hand has been with us. It is in His grace that we find our hope. Our prayer is that this theme will draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance in their personal lives and on behalf of our nation. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you share about the importance of prayer in both your political and personal life. Please highlight the needs of those involved in our nation's legislative branch. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 11:03 a.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you and Christine to attend our National Day of Prayer Reception on Wednesday, May 4, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, Dr. Dobson would like to introduce you and lead a time of prayer for you and our Cannon participants. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Again, it is an honor to have your participation this year. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is hillbr@fotf.org. In the meantime, may God bless you richly as you continue in service to our country.

Sincerely,

Shirley Dobson
Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Thanks for blessing the nation with your participation



"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

—Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Pls_Rsp_Req_POD_349

The 54th Annual ★ National Day of Prayer ★ Thursday, May 5, 2005



National Day of Prayer



March 21, 2005

Secretary Michael Johanns
c/o Marlene Minix
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force in beautiful Colorado Springs! Here at the Task Force Headquarters, our staff has been busy with preparations for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was approved and established by an act of Congress in 1952, and it has become a significant activity in the lives of millions of citizens, not only in America, but on military bases and embassies around the world. This year marks the 54th anniversary of this historic day. Our theme for 2005 is "God Shed His Grace on Thee," drawn from Hebrews 4:16.

Secretary Johanns, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Executive Branch. A number of esteemed current and former Executive leaders have participated in the past, including Attorney General John Ashcroft and Secretary Mel Martinez. In this role, we ask that you share about the impact of prayer in your personal and political life, as well as the prayer needs of the Executive Branch. Your portion of the program would tentatively begin at 10:46 a.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would take part. For your review, I have enclosed a copy of the 2004 Cannon Caucus Room Observance and the history of the National Day of Prayer.

I'd also welcome your participation at a special Prayer Reception held Wednesday, May 4, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for our Cannon participants. We hope you will join us, if only for a short time.

Again, it would mean a great deal if you'd accept our invitation. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is hillbr@fotf.org.

Thank you, Secretary Johanns, for prayerfully considering our request. We hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime, may God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

We hope you can participate in blessing our nation!

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

—Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

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The 54th Annual ★ National Day of Prayer ★ Thursday, May 5, 2005

Chairman:
Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman:
Pastor Max Lucado

Co-chairman:
Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)

Vice Chairman:
Mr. Jim Weidmann

Director:
Mr. Rich Caldwell

Public Relations Manager:
Mrs. Bobbie Hill

National Coordinator Manager:
Mrs. Lisa Crump

Senior Staff Accountant:
Mrs. Thelma Corder

National Advisory Committee:
Mr. Philip E. Anschutz
Mrs. John Ashcroft (Janet)
Hon. Honorable Dan Coats
Mr. Charles W. Colson
Dr. James Dobson
Mr. Archie Dunham
The Honorable William Frist
The Honorable Tony P. Hall
The Honorable Dan Rostenkowski
The Honorable Kay Coles James
Admiral Frank J. Robinson
General Joseph E. Ruffalo
The Honorable Steve Largent
Mrs. George W. Bush
Mrs. Ruth Hanft (Karen)
Dr. Raleigh Washington
The Honorable J. C. Watts

Liaisons:
Rabbi Bruce Lustig
Pastor Max Lucado
Father Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
TASK FORCE
P.O. BOX 15616
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
80905-5616
(719) 531-3379
Fax: (719) 531-4520
nationaldayofprayer.org

A project of the National
Prayer Committee, Inc.



(2)

EXHIBIT 39

COPY

2007

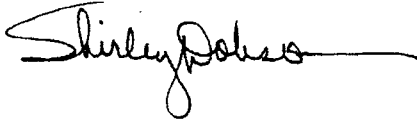
Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Every year since Congress established an annual day of prayer in 1952, millions of Americans from coast to coast have gathered in churches, synagogues, schools, parks, and other venues to intercede on behalf of our country. Given the extent to which our culture has deviated from the moral underpinnings upon which our nation was founded, it behooves us to honor the precedent set forth by our forefathers.

The words of Thomas Jefferson, uttered over 200 years ago, echo our concerns for today. Bemoaning the state of an infant republic he said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Today, we may face different trials, but we are not far removed from the desperation of Jefferson's sentiments. How good it is to know, then, that our distress is tempered by our confidence in the mercy of the living God and in His promise to hear the petitions of His children. In that spirit, we have chosen **America, Unite in Prayer** as our theme for 2007, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

In keeping with tradition, we ask that you lend your support in the form of a public proclamation declaring May 3, 2007 as a National Day of Prayer. For more than 50 years, this nationwide observance has been endorsed each May by the President of the United States and last year, every governor in the nation, as well as those in our U.S. territories, participated. Given the importance of this event, will you consider joining with us in this endeavor? Please send a copy of your official pronouncement to us here at NDP headquarters before **April 1**, and provide a second copy for our <State> State Coordinator, <SC name>, who will be in touch with you shortly. All of the proclamations will be bound for presentation to President Bush. If any questions should arise, we invite you to contact Mrs. Lisa Crump, our National Coordinator Manager, at 719/268-4803, or you may send her an e-mail at lisa.crump@nationaldayofprayer.org.

We appreciate your time and consideration, Governor «Governor», and look forward to hearing from you. God bless you and your staff as you continue to faithfully serve the people of «State»!

Sincerely,



Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force
SD/eb

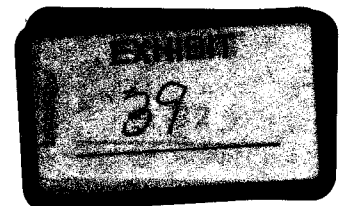


EXHIBIT 40

National Day of Prayer

Chairman: James C. Dobson (Shirley)
 Vice Chairman: L. North USMC (Ret.)
 Executive Director: [Name]
 Marketing Manager: [Name]
 Treasurer: [Name]
 Secretary: [Name]
 Public Relations Manager: [Name]
 Web Manager: [Name]
 National Day of Prayer Task Force
 P.O. Box 15616
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906
 Phone: (719) 594-2520
 Website: www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Liaisons:
 Rabbi Bruce Lustig
 Pastor Max Lucado
 Pastor Robert A. Sirico

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
 TASK FORCE
 P.O. BOX 15616
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

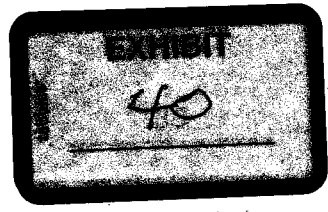


Let Freedom Ring

The freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, the freedom to pray

October 22, 2004

The Honorable Bill Frist
 Office of the Majority
 The Capitol, Room S-230
 Washington, DC 20502



Dear Senator Frist, *Bill,*

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Our ministry is busily preparing for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2004. For years we have been privileged to hold this special observance in our nation's capitol. This gathering, held at the Cannon House Office Building, is only one of thousands of events taking place throughout the country. Each year we have been blessed with an overflow crowd of American believers filling the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress. Today, for millions of believers in the United States and on foreign soil, it stands as a celebrated memorial to our Christian heritage. In our nation's critical state, the National Day of Prayer draws its theme from the call of promise in Hebrews 6:11: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Bill,
 Senator Frist, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us and Honorary Chairman Max Lucado at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch. A number of current and former esteemed Cabinet members have participated in the past, including Senator Wayne Allard, Representative Mike McIntyre, Representative Steve Largent, and Senator John Ashcroft. In this role, you would convey to the audience the prayer needs of the Legislative branch, as well as the role of prayer in your personal and professional life. Your portion of the program would be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would join us.

For your review, I have included a copy of the Cannon Caucus Room Observance program agenda. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her email address is hillbr@fotf.org.

In these challenging times, it has been most encouraging to witness believers from across our great nation lift this beloved land and its leaders before the Lord. Again, it would be a great blessing to have you join us this May 5th at our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington. Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. Give my best to Karyn. We look forward to hearing from you.

May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Shirley Dobson

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
 Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Bill - what a blessing to our nation if you could represent the congress on our nation's Day of Prayer

Leviticus 25:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

Please meet Karyn for me.

EXHIBIT 41

December 10, 2004

The Honorable Rick Santorum
Address
Address

Dear Senator Santorum,

Warm greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! Our ministry is busily preparing for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2005. For years we have been privileged to hold this special observance in our nation's capitol. This gathering, held at the Cannon House Office Building, is only one of thousands of events taking place throughout the country. Each year we have been blessed with an overflow crowd of American believers filling the Caucus Room and adjoining hallways.

As you may know, the annual National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress. Today, for millions of believers in the United States and on foreign soil, it stands as a celebrated memorial to our Christian heritage. In our nation's critical state, the National Day of Prayer draws its theme from the call of promise in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Senator Santorum, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us and Honorary Chairman Max Lucado at the Cannon House observance as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch. A number of current and former esteemed Cabinet members have participated in the past, including Senator Wayne Allard, Representative Mike McIntyre, Representative Steve Largent, and Senator John Ashcroft. In this role, you would convey to the audience the prayer needs of the Legislative branch, as well as the role of prayer in your personal and professional life. Your portion of the program would be approximately ten minutes in length. We would be honored if you would join us.

For your review, I have included a copy of last year's Cannon Caucus Room Observance program agenda. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her email address is hillbr@fotf.org.

In these challenging times, it has been most encouraging to witness believers from across our great nation lift this beloved land and its leaders before the Lord. Again, it would be a great blessing to have you join us this May 5th at our National Day of Prayer observance in Washington, D.C. Thank you for prayerfully considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you.

May God richly bless you in your service to Him and to our country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

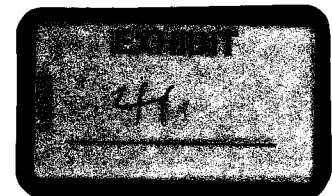


EXHIBIT 42

February 23, 2004

The Honorable Charles W. Stenholm
United States House of Representatives
c/o Jayne Schoonmaker
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stenholm:

A warm "hello" from Colorado Springs! As you know, the staff at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2004 prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year on May 6 as the representative for our government's Legislative Branch and trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting. The gathering, held on Capitol Hill, is symbolic of the celebrations taking place throughout the land. Last year, more than 1,000 people crowded into the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room and adjoining areas to participate in this historic event.

Our theme for 2004, **Let Freedom Ring**, is based on the scripture found in Leviticus 25:10, "... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." Foundational to our country has been the understanding that God is the Source of freedom and has given His creation "inalienable rights." We hope this message will be a catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance with their personal concerns, as well as those of our leaders, community and country. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you present a brief message calling for prayer on behalf of those in the Legislative Branch of our government. As a representative for our nation's leaders, you will highlight the needs of those involved in tackling the crucial decisions that will set the course for our nation's future. Your portion of the program will tentatively begin at 11:27 and be approximately ten minutes in length. After you speak, someone will lead those gathered in prayer.

I would also like to urge you and Cynthia to attend our NDP Task Force reception on Wednesday evening, May 5 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for you and the other participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures.

Again, it is an honor to include you among our list of speakers for this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is hillbr@fotf.org. See you in May! In the meantime, may God's richest blessings be yours.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

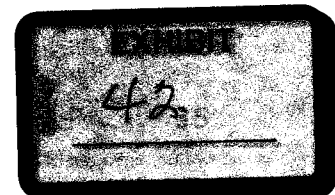


EXHIBIT 43



The Annual NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

First Thursday of May

Chairman

Mrs. James Dobson (Shirley)

Honorary Chairman

Dr. Henry Blackaby

Co-chairman

Mrs. Bill Bright (Vonette)

Vice Chairman

Mr. Jim Wedgman

Director of Operations and Finance

Mr. Rich Caldwell

Public Relations Manager

Mrs. Boddie

National Coordinator Manager

Mrs. Lisa Crump

Marketing & Communications Manager

Mrs. Terrell Maynor

Senior Staff Accountant

Mrs. Thea Corder

National Advisory Committee

Mr. Philip Anschutz

Mrs. John Ashcroft (Janet)

The Honorable Ben Coats

Mr. Charles W. Colson

James C. Dobson, Ph.D.

The Honorable William Frit

The Honorable Tony P. Hall

The Honorable Don Hodel

The Honorable Kay Coles James

Admiral Jerry Johnson USN (ret.)

General Charles Krulak USMC (ret.)

The Honorable Steve Largent

Mrs. Stormie Omartian

Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., retired

The Honorable Joseph Pitts

Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karen)

The Honorable J. C. Watts

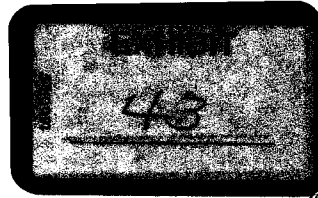
Liaisons

Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)

Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)

Rev. Robert A. Sisco (Catholic Liaison)

May 15, 2006



AMERICA, HONOR GOD

... Those who honor me I will honor ...
1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

Chaplain Barry Black
Office of the Chaplain
United States Senate
SROB-332 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chaplain Black:

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! Although May 4 has come and gone, I am still overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of prayer and repentance that encompassed our nation. As hands joined together to cry out to God, hearts were changed and hope was restored. Given the significance of this day, I am so pleased you were able to be a part of the 2006 National Day of Prayer observance at the Cannon House Office Building. You gave a powerful charge to believers through your exhortation at the Cannon House to pray with passion and perseverance. I'm delighted that we were able to share your words with our Focus on the Family radio audience as well. During such an uncertain and dangerous period in history, it is encouraging to be reminded of prayer's effectiveness in combating the despair of our time.

We have already heard from a number of our coordinators, and I am excited to share with you some of the unique ways in which millions of participants gathered for corporate prayer. Here are just a few of the reports we have received thus far:

- This year marked the first annual observance at the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Amphitheater in South Dakota. Due to cold rain and fog, the event was moved indoors, where a standing-room only crowd interceded for our nation. Governor Mike Rounds and author William Federer were among those leading this time of prayer.
- Nashville's celebrated Ryman auditorium hosted the nationally broadcast Concert of Prayer for City Transformation. Through Moody Radio affiliates across the country, it is estimated that 3 to 4 million participants tuned in for a powerful time of intercession.
- Rebecca St. James, who has been a wonderful ambassador to our country's youth this year, actively sought to motivate young people to pray for America. On May 3rd, she televised a nationwide event geared towards inspiring teens to take part in the following day's observances.

I trust you, too, find these accounts uplifting. Our nation is desperate for the healing only the Almighty can bring, and I hope Americans will remain in a posture of prayer daily as we look to the future. Again, deepest thanks for your part in making the Cannon House observance a true reflection of the thousands of gatherings throughout the country - it was a privilege to have you with us. May God bless you abundantly in the days ahead!

Sincerely,

Shirley Dobson
1 Thes 5:17

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

*Chaplain -
You hit the ball out
of the court! Your message
was powerful and stirred
our spirits. Thank you
for your involvement in the
day of prayer in America.*

EXHIBIT 44

February 23, 2004

The Honorable Roderick R. Paige
Secretary of Education
c/o Mary Ann Gomez
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20202-1510

Dear Secretary Paige:

A warm "hello" from Colorado Springs! As you know, the staff at National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters is busy finalizing plans for the 2004 prayer observance in Washington, D.C. I'm pleased that you have agreed to join us this year on May 6 as the representative for our government's Executive Branch and trust you will find the occasion tremendously uplifting. The gathering, held on Capitol Hill, is symbolic of the celebrations taking place throughout the land. Last year, more than 1,000 people crowded into the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room and adjoining areas to participate in this historic event.

Our theme for 2004, Let Freedom Ring, is based on the scripture found in Leviticus 25:10, "... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." Foundational to our country has been the understanding that God is the Source of freedom and has given His creation "inalienable rights." We hope this message will be a catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance with their personal concerns, as well as those of our leaders, community and country. As we mentioned in our previous letter, we ask that you present a brief message calling for prayer on behalf of those in the Executive Branch of our government. As a representative for our nation's leaders, you will highlight the needs of those involved at the highest level as they make crucial decisions regarding our nation's future. There has been a minor change in the schedule, and your ten-minute segment will now be from approximately 11:09 to 11:19. After you speak, someone will lead those gathered in prayer.

I would also like to urge you to attend our NDP Task Force reception on Wednesday evening, May 5 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. During this time, we will acknowledge and pray for you and the other participants, in addition to hearing from several prominent public figures.

Again, it is an honor to include you among our list of speakers for this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Hill, NDP Public Relations Manager at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is hillbr@fotf.org. See you in May! In the meantime, may God's richest blessings be yours.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures

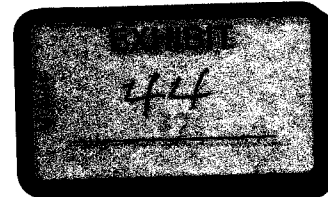
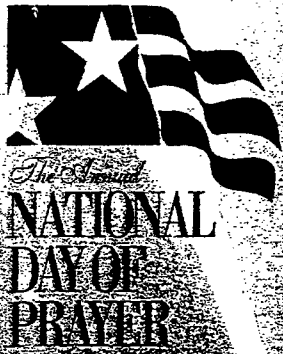


EXHIBIT 45



AMERICA, HONOR GOD

"...Those who honor me I will honor..."
1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)

April 3, 2006

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
ATTN: Paul Conway
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Chao,

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! I'm delighted that you have agreed to join us for our National Observance in Washington, D.C. as our Executive Branch speaker on May 4, 2006. Your participation and support mean a great deal to me, and I know you will find the observance tremendously uplifting.

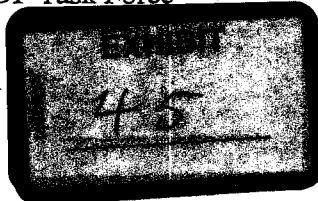
This year's theme is **America, Honor God**, based on I Samuel 2:30 "...Those who honor me I will honor..." Our prayer is that this theme will draw Americans closer to God as they look to Him for guidance in their personal lives and on behalf of our nation. As we have mentioned previously, we ask that you share about the role of prayer in your personal and professional life, as well as the prayer needs of our government's Executive Branch. Your portion of the program will begin at 1:36 p.m. and be approximately ten minutes in length. We've enclosed a copy of last year's Cannon program for your review.

Again, it is an honor to have your support this year. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bobbie Hill, Public Relations Manager, at 719/268-4802. Her e-mail address is bobbie.hill@nationaldayofprayer.org. We look forward to seeing you in May.

Blessings,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

Enclosures



Appreciate your participation in this year's National Day of Prayer observance. Every blessing!

- Mr. Jim...
- Vice...
- Mr. Jim...
- Direct...
- and Fil...
- Mr. Rick...
- Presi...
- Mrs. Bob...
- Nation...
- Mrs. Lis...
- Market...
- Comm...
- Mr. Her...
- Senior Staff...
- Mrs. Tere...
- National Advisory Committee
- Mr. Phil...
- Mrs. Joh...
- The Honorable...
- Mr. Charles...
- James C. Dobson
- The Honorable...
- The Honorable...
- The Honorable...
- The Honorable...
- The Honorable...
- The Honorable...
- Admiral Jerry Johnson USN
- General Charles Krulak USMC
- The Honorable Steve Largent
- Mrs. Stormie...
- Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., retired
- The Honorable Joseph Pils
- Mrs. Rick Santorum (Karten)
- The Honorable J. C. Walls

- Liaisons**
- Pastor Max Lucado (Protestant Liaison)
- Rabbi Bruce Lustig (Jewish Liaison)
- Rev. Robert A. Sirico (Catholic Liaison)

EXHIBIT 46

Thanks to Congressmen Who Attended 2005 NDP (SD Sig)

Warm greetings from Colorado Springs! On behalf of everyone here at the National Day of Prayer Task Force headquarters, I'd like to extend heartfelt appreciation for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this year's NDP observance at the Cannon House Office Building. I know that there are a great many pressing demands calling for your attention, and I'm encouraged that you set those concerns aside in order to join us in lifting our nation in prayer. Your actions demonstrate that you value prayer and acknowledge our need to seek the Almighty's guidance, protection and blessing as we confront the challenges facing us. Millions of Americans from coast to coast joined with us at gatherings large and small in what may have been the largest turnout ever!

Thank you once again for taking part in the 54th annual National Day of Prayer observance, <name>. I trust your commitment to praying for the United States set an inspiring example for many of our fellow citizens, and it's my hope that you were uplifted by our event. May God continue to grant you His wisdom in your vital service to our beloved land and its people.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James C. Dobson (Shirley)
Chairman, NDP Task Force

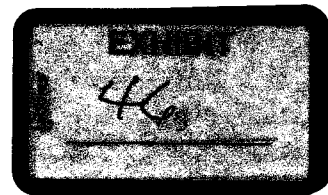


EXHIBIT 47

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 2007

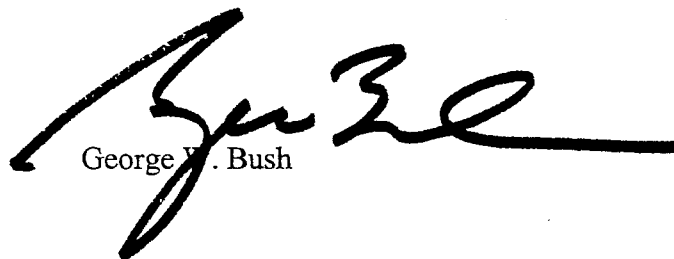
Mrs. Shirley Dobson
1453 Smoochers Circle
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

Dear Shirley:

It was good to see you and Jim again at the White House. The National Day of Prayer was a great opportunity to join good people across the country in praying to the Almighty. A prayerful nation is a strong nation, and I was honored to be with you at such an uplifting event.

Thanks for your leadership of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and for the wonderful collection of proclamations as well. Best wishes, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,



George W. Bush





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 2008

Mrs. Shirley Dobson
Chairman
National Day of Prayer Task Force
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Shirley:

Your thoughtful note just reached me in the Oval Office. Thank you for your kind words.

The National Prayer Breakfast is a wonderful tradition that reflects the true strength of our country. Prayer plays an important role in the fabric of America, and I am grateful for your commitment to serving a cause greater than self. Your compassionate work is helping to lift the hearts of many, and I appreciate your efforts.

Laura and I send our best wishes to you and Jim. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



George W. Bush

EXHIBIT 48

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Cannon Program — Thursday, May 7, 2009

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room

9:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.

Prelude Music — Military Brass Quintet

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar

Opening Prayer — Father Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Prayer for the Nations — Ambassador to the United States

Worship — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Prayer of Repentance — Dr. Dick Eastman, President Every Home for Christ

Special Music — Miss Lillie Knauls

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Mr. Dave Butts, President Harvest Prayer Ministries

Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Michele Bachmann, Minnesota

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, Co-Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Military Branch Remarks — General James Amos, Assistant Commandant of United States Marine Corps

Prayer for Military Branch — Brig. General David Cyr, Deputy Chief of Chaplains United States Air Force

Worship — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Keynote Speaker — Mrs. Beth Moore, Honorary Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Special Music — Miss Lillie Knauls

Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Priscilla Owen, Federal Judge United States Court of Appeals 5th Circuit

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Dr. Paul Cedar, Chair and CEO Mission America Coalition

Special Guest — Shaun Alexander, NFL MVP

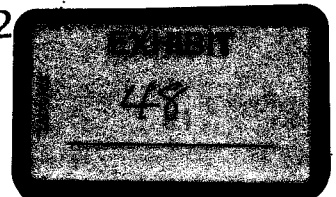
Prayer Challenge — Mr. Brian Toon, Vice Chairman National Day of Prayer Task Force

Closing Song — Mr. Travis Cottrell

Reserved seating must be in place before 8:30 a.m.
Schedule is subject to change.

THE 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009
CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

“May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we
put our hope in you.” —Psalm 33:22



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
CANNON PROGRAM — Thursday, May 1, 2008
Cannon House Office Building — Caucus Room
12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Prelude Music — Military Band Brass Quintet
Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and Anthem Vocalist — National Anthem
Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of National Day of Prayer
Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig
Opening Prayer — Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Services
Prayer for the Nations — Her Excellency Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, Ambassador of Zambia
Worship — Mr. Charles Billingsley
Prayer of Repentance — Rev. Dick Eastman, National Prayer Committee
Executive Branch Remarks — The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior
Prayer for Executive Branch — Mr. Dave Butts, NPC*
Legislative Branch Remarks — The Honorable Mike McIntyre, North Carolina
Prayer for Legislative Branch — Dr. Paul Cedar, NPC*
Worship — Mr. Charles Billingsley
Prayer — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain
Keynote Speaker — Dr. Ravi Zacharias, Honorary Chairman NDP**
Prayer for the Nation — Dr. Ravi Zacharias
Special Song — Ms. Abby Schrader
Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Janice Rogers Brown, U.S. Court of Appeals
Prayer for Judicial Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, Co-Chairman NDP**
Armed Forces Remarks — Lt. General Patrick Caruana (retired U.S.A.F)
Prayer for the Armed Forces — Mrs. Kathy Branzell, NPC*
Worship — Mr. Charles Billingsley
Prayer Challenge — Mr. Brian Toon, Vice Chairman, NDP**
Closing Song — *God Bless America* — Charles Billingsley

**National Prayer Committee*

***National Day of Prayer Task Force*

Reserved seating must be in place before 11:30 am

Schedule is subject to change

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Cannon Program — Thursday, May 3, 2007

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room, 12:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Prelude Music — Military Brass Quintet

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks - Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP Chairman

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar - Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Prayer of Blessing — Father Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Worship — Charles Billingsley

Executive Branch Remarks - Secretary Jim Nicholson, Veterans Affairs

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Rev. Richard Eastman, NPC*

Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Marilyn Musgrave, Colorado

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-chairman

Worship — Charles Billingsley

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Charles W. Swindoll

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation: I Pledge My Allegiance

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Judicial Branch Remarks — Chief Justice James W. Smith

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Mrs. Barbara Byerly*

Military Multimedia Presentation

Armed Forces Remarks — Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander United States Northern Command and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense

Prayer for the Armed Forces — Dr. Glenn Sheppard*

Music - Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge — Mrs. Shirley Dobson

Closing Song — God Bless America — Charles Billingsley

*NPC—National Prayer Committee

Throughout the day, congressional hostesses will be available to assist you and direct you to restrooms and dining facilities. Please feel free to ask for their assistance.

"My people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..." 2 Chronicles 7:14

THE 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007

CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM —Thursday, May 3, 2007
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Prelude Music — U. S. Navy Band Brass Quintet

Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and Anthem Vocalist — National Anthem

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi Joui Hessel

Opening Prayer — Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Worship—Charles Billingsley

Executive Branch Remarks —Secretary Jim Nicholson, Veterans Affairs

Prayer for Executive Branch — Mr. Dave Butts, National Prayer Committee

Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Marilyn Musgrave, Colorado

Prayer for Legislative Branch—Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman

Worship—Charles Billingsley

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Charles R. Swindoll, Honorary Chairman

Prayer for the Nation—Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation—*I Pledge My Allegiance*, Ernie Haase and
Signature Sound

Judicial Branch Remarks — Chief Justice James W. Smith, MS Supreme Court

Prayer for Judicial Branch — Mrs. Barbara Byerly, National Prayer Committee

Military Multimedia Presentation—*We Will Stand*

Armed Forces Remarks —Admiral Timothy J. Keating, U.S. Pacific Command

Prayer for the Armed Forces — Dr. Glenn Sheppard, National Prayer Committee

Music—Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge—Shirley Dobson

Closing Song—*God Bless America*—Charles Billingsley

*emcee—Mr. David Butts, Chairman of the National Prayer Committee

*reserved seating must be in place before 11:30 am

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM — THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

Cannon House Office Building — Cannon Caucus Room, 1:00 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.

Prelude Music — Air Force Band Brass Quintet

Prayer for the Nations — H. E. Cyril S. Ogin, Ambassador of Benin

Presentation of the Colors and National Anthem — Joint Armed Services Color Guard

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, NDP Chairman

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi Bruce Engig

Opening Prayer — Father Charles Pope

Worship — D.C. Washington

Executive Branch Remarks — Secretary Elaine L. Chao, Department of Labor

Prayer for the Executive Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation: "America" — Rebecca St. James

Prayer of Blessing — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Multimedia Presentation — "If I Die Before You Wake"

Armed Forces Remarks — Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp,

Commanding General of U.S. Army Accessions Command

Prayer for the Military — Rev. Dick Eastman*

Legislative Branch Remarks — Senator Rick Santorum, Pennsylvania

Prayer for the Legislative Branch — David Burts*

Worship — D.C. Washington

Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Prayer for the Judicial Branch — Mr. John Lind

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Henry Blackaby, NDP Honorary Chairman

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer — Mrs. Shirley Dobson

Closing Song: "God Bless America" — D. C. Washington

*NPC — National Prayer Committee

Interpreting for the deaf — Peg Spinello, Mary Abernathy and Kathy Mannis

Throughout the day, congressional hostesses will be available to assist you and direct you to restrooms and dining facilities. Please feel free to ask for their assistance.

Those who honor me, I will honor

THE 55TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM—Thursday, May 4, 2006
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room
1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

12:40 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

Prelude Music — Air Force Brass Quintet

Prayer for the Nations—H. E. Cyrille S. Oguin, Ambassador of Benin

Joint Armed Services Color Guard — National Anthem

Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP

Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Opening Prayer — Father Charles Pope

Worship—D. C. Washington

Executive Branch Remarks —Secretary Elaine Chao, Dept. of Labor

Prayer for Executive Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chair

Theme Song Multimedia Presentation—Rebecca St. James, *America*

Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America — Chaplain Barry Black, Senate Chaplain

Music — Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Multimedia Presentation—*If I Die Before You Wake*

Armed Forces Remarks — Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General
of US Army Accessions Command

Prayer for the Armed Forces — Rev. Dick Eastman*

Legislative Branch Remarks — Senator Rick Santorum, Pennsylvania

Prayer for Legislative Branch — Mr. David Butts*

Worship—D. C. Washington

Judicial Branch Remarks — Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Prayer for Judicial Branch — Mr. John Lind

Keynote Speaker — Dr. Henry Blackaby, Honorary Chairman

Music—Ernie Haase and Signature Sound

Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer—Shirley Dobson

Closing Song—*God Bless America*—D. C. Washington

*reserved seating must be in place before 12:30 pm

08/03/09

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM — Thursday, May 5, 2005
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room
1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

OPENING

12:45 p.m. – 2:19 p.m.**

Prelude Music — The President's Own United States Marine Brass Quintet
Joint Armed Services Color Guard — National Anthem
Opening Remarks — Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP
Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar — Rabbi Bruce Lustig
Opening Prayer — Dr. James C. Dobson, Focus on the Family Chairman
Keynote Speaker — Pastor Max Lucado, Honorary Chairman
Music — Sounds of Liberty Musical Group
Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America — Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives

GOVERNMENT

2:20 p.m. – 3:47 p.m.**

Multimedia Presentation — Dennis Jernigan, *God Shed His Grace on Thee*
Executive Branch Remarks — The Honorable Mike Johanns, Sec. of Agriculture
Prayer for Executive Branch — Mrs. Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman
Legislative Branch Remarks — Representative Tom DeLay, House Majority Leader
Prayer for Legislative Branch — Mr. Dave Butts*
Worship — Immanuel Singers
Armed Forces Remarks — Rear Admiral Charles Young, Director of Strategic Systems Command
Prayer for the Armed Forces — Dr. Paul Cedar*
Judicial Branch Remarks — Alan Sears, General Counsel for Alliance Defense Fund
Prayer for Judicial Branch — Rev. Dick Eastman*

THE PEOPLE

3:48 p.m. – 4:48 p.m.**

Multimedia Presentation — *Freedom* by Michael W. Smith
Speaker for The Family — Dr. Gary Smalley, Cofounder and Chairman of the Smalley Relationship Center
Prayer for The Family — Rev. Dana Olson*
Worship — Immanuel Bible Singers
Prayer Challenge and Closing Prayer — Jim Weidmann, Vice Chairman

NPC - National Prayer Committee

**Exact times are subject to change during the event

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

CANNON PROGRAM — Thursday, May 6, 2004
Cannon House Office Building – Cannon Caucus Room
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

OPENING

9:10 – 10:49 a.m.**

Prelude Music – Marine Corps Brass Quintet
Armed Forces Color Guard – National Anthem
Welcome and Opening Remarks – Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of NDP
Scripture Reading/Blowing of the Shofar – Rabbi Bruce Lustig
Remarks and Opening Prayer – Bishop Francisco Gonzalez
Keynote Speaker – LtCol Oliver L. North USMC (Ret) of FOX News Channel
Music – McLean Bible Worship Ensemble
Prayer of Blessing and Prayer for America – Chaplain Barry Black

GOVERNMENT

10:50 – 12:34 p.m.**

Multimedia Presentation – Dennis Jernigan, *Let Freedom Ring*
Executive Branch Remarks – Secretary Andrew Card, White House Chief of Staff
Prayer for Executive Branch – Dave Butts*, National Prayer Committee
Legislative Branch Remarks – Congressman Charles Stenholm, Texas
Prayer for Legislative Branch – Vonette Bright, NDP Co-Chairman
Worship – McLean Bible Worship Ensemble
Armed Forces Remarks – General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman-Joint Chiefs of Staff
Prayer for the Armed Forces – Rev. Dick Eastman*
Judicial Branch Remarks – Justice Kenneth Bell, FL Supreme Court
Prayer for Judicial Branch – Evelyn Christenson*
Music – Freedom Village Singers

THE PEOPLE

12:35 – 1:27 p.m.**

Multimedia Presentation – Dennis Jernigan, *America the Beautiful Medley*
Speaker for Corporate America – Archie Dunham, Chairman ConocoPhillips
Prayer for Corporate America – Rev. Jeff Noel*
Closing Song – McLean Bible Worship Ensemble
Prayer Challenge – Jim Weidmann, Vice Chairman
Closing Prayer – Rev. Earl Pickard*

05/03/04

*NPC – National Prayer Committee

**Exact times are subject to change during the event

EXHIBIT 49

58th Annual Observance

PRAYER... AMERICA'S HOPE



National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 7, 2009
Cannon House Office Building – Caucus Room
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker Mrs. Beth Moore, Honorary Chairwoman

Other speakers Include:

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, Judge Priscilla Owen, General James Amos, and Dr. and Mrs. James Dobson

www.NationalDayofPrayer.org

58th Annual Observance

PRAYER... AMERICA'S HOPE

THE 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1999
CANNON CAUCUS ROOM OBSERVANCE

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we
put our hope in you." - Psalm 33:22

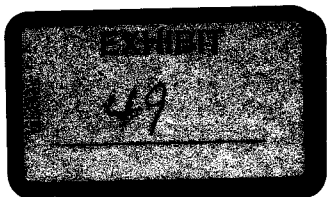
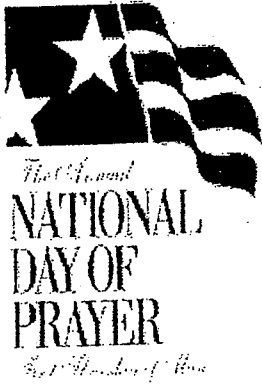


EXHIBIT 50



From the Desk of Faye Tharp
Director of Public Affairs
Faye.Tharp@nationaldayofprayer.org
P. (719) 268-4802
F. (719) 548-4520

Cannon House National Day of Prayer Observance
Executive Branch Representatives
(1999-2008)

- 1999 – Director Barry McCaffrey (Office of National Drug Control Policy)
- 2000 - Secretary Rodney Slater (Transportation)
- 2001 & 2002 – Secretary Mel Martinez (Housing & Urban Dev)
- 2003 & 2004 - Attorney General John Ashcroft
- 2005 - Secretary Mike Johannes (Agriculture)
- 2006 - Secretary Elaine Chao (Labor)
- 2007 - Secretary Jim Nicholson (Veterans Affairs)
- 2008 – Secretary Dirk Kempthorne (Interior)

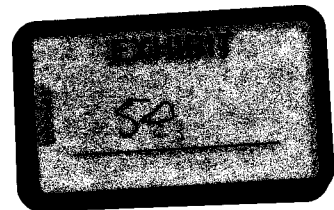


EXHIBIT 51

Search Go



59th Annual Observance
Thursday, May 6, 2010

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About NDP

Mission & Values

Judeo-Christian

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Why We Pray

What is Prayer

How Prayer Works

How Do I Get Involved?

En Español



Mission

Our Vision and Values

Who We Are and What We Do

Official Policy Statement on Participation

Mission

The National Day of Prayer Task Force's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

Our Vision and Values

In accordance with Biblical truth, the National Day of Prayer Task Force seeks to:

- Foster unity within the Christian Church
- Protect America's Constitutional Freedoms to gather, worship, pray and speak freely.
- Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage
- Encourage and emphasize prayer, regardless of current issues and positions
 - » Respect all people, regardless of denomination or creed
- Be wise stewards of God's resources and provision
- Glorify the Lord in word and deed

Who We Are and What We Do

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Our Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

[History of the National Day of Prayer>>](#)

Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based.

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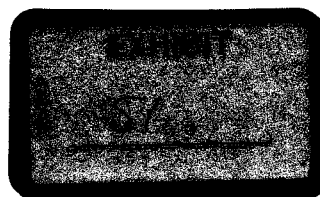


EXHIBIT 52


 Go

59th Annual Observance
Thursday, May 6, 2010

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[Your Best Work](#)

[How Do I Get Involved?](#)

En Español

What Makes Prayer Work?
Jennifer Kennedy Dean
The Praying Life Foundation
www.prayinglife.org

"Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him."

Billy Graham

Additional Articles:

The Power of Prayer - Your Best Work
by Dr. David Jeremiah

Giving Ourselves to Prayer

An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry



Complete Study on Prayer - developed by the National Prayer Committee and compiled by Dr. Dan Crawford this is an 80 chapter, 592 page textbook written by

80 different professors and national prayer leaders. The content covers both personal prayer issues and concepts and how to grow prayer in a church. To order, click here>>

What Makes Prayer Work?

It's all about a relationship!

God has created mankind so that we naturally hunger for a relationship with Him. He has built that yearning for Himself into our frame; He has encoded eternal longings in our spiritual DNA structure. The Scripture says, "He has also set eternity in the hearts of men" (Eccl. 3:11). The famous theologian, C.S. Lewis, wrote "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." (Mere Christianity)

Prayer is the bridge between Heaven and Earth. It is the conduit through which the spiritual realm is brought into our everyday lives. Prayer is the way our spirits breathe. Just as our lungs require oxygen and are designed to seek it out, so our spirits require the presence of God and are designed to seek Him out. Without His presence, we are left gasping for meaning and desperately seeking our purpose in life. We find ourselves trying our best to pray because it is as needful as air for our lungs. Prayer is the method God uses to provide not only our daily needs from food to shelter but also comfort, strength and guidance. The late E. Stanley Jones, missionary and preacher, wrote, "Prayer ... is the opening of a channel from my emptiness into His fullness." (Abundant Living)

Answers depend on the relationship!

You find yourself drawn to prayer, curious about prayer, or even desperate for prayer. Maybe you've tried prayer and prayer has failed you. Maybe you can point to unanswered prayer after unanswered prayer, proving that prayer doesn't work.

Does that describe you?

Welcome! You are at this Web site because God wants you to understand how you can have a fulfilling relationship with Him that will turn prayer from a fruitless exercise to an exciting adventure.

Prayer = Love

Prayer works in the context of relationship. Once the relationship is established, you will find that prayer is its natural expression. It is simply speaking and listening to your Heavenly Father. God wants to answer our prayers. Answered prayer is how He manifests Himself in our life and makes this relationship personal "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." Prayer is the intimacy that flows spontaneously from a loving relationship.

Imagine that you went into a restaurant with your father. Imagine that you and your father ordered your meals, and when the waiter brought them to your table, he said to your father, "That looks delicious. I want to try a bite of that!" Then imagine the waiter picks up a fork and helps himself to a bite from your father's plate. It would be inappropriate. You would be offended. You would demand an apology.

Now imagine that you and your father ordered your meals, the waiter brought them to your table, and you said to your father, "That looks delicious. I want to try a bite of that!" Imagine that you pick up a fork and help yourself to a bite from your father's plate. It would be natural. Your father would be happy to share his meal with you. It would be an accepted intimacy.

What is the difference between the two scenarios? Not the words. Not the actions. Not the intention. The difference is the relationship. The child has access to the father that the stranger does not. (Adapted from Live a Praying Life by Jennifer Kennedy Dean)

Prayer starts with the relationship.

Have you found that prayer does not work for you? Perhaps you need to start with the relationship.

[Click here to learn how>>](#)

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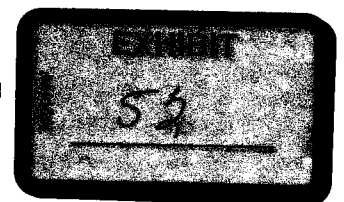


EXHIBIT 53

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Why We Pray

As American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt called for our nation to unite in prayer. He also offered a prayer to prepare each citizen for the road ahead. "Let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be. And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee." The victory that followed on June 6, 1944-also known as D-Day-began the march to Berlin. Eighteen months later, WWII was over and one of the world's greatest evils had been defeated. The prayers of a nation had been a powerful force.

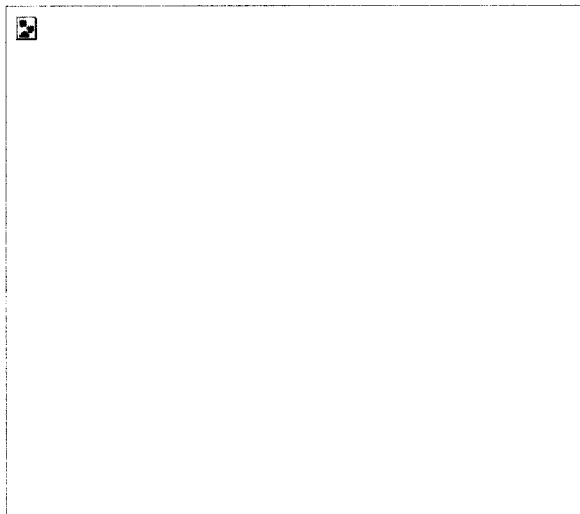


Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

President Abraham Lincoln knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

It is our goal that you, your family and friends would participate in the National Day of Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

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EXHIBIT 54

About NDP

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Giving Ourselves to Prayer

An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry



Complete Study on Prayer - developed by the National Prayer Committee and compiled by Dr. Dan Crawford, this is an 80 chapter, 592 page textbook written by

80 different professors and national prayer leaders. The content covers both personal prayer issues and concepts and how to grow prayer in a church. To order, click here>>

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of salvation is to restore lost people to relationship with God our Father. Through the cross of Jesus, the barriers to that relationship were removed. When we begin to trust God once again and turn from our sin, He comes into our lives to begin a new relationship of love with us. God is in every true Christian (Romans 8:9,10; John 14:23; Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Our faith and love towards God will lead us to recognize His presence with us, to talk with Him, to listen to Him, to sense Him. This is prayer. We express our thanks, our faith, our love, our hopes with God in prayer, and we receive from Him answers, assurance, guidance, peace, strength, power, revelation of who He is and what He wants to do. (Matthew 7:7-8; John 16:13; Philipians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:17,18)

WHAT IS PRAYER?

For true Christians, prayer [Gk: "proseuche"] is "communion with God". Through prayer we actually experience relationship with God. The quality of our prayer life then determines the quality of our relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God. Prayer is listening to God. Prayer is enjoying the presence of God. It can take many forms - for example: worship, confession, thanksgiving, praise, petition (asking for things), waiting (silent, listening and sensing of God) and warfare (command). If we are baptized in the Spirit we can pray with the spirit, in languages unknown to us but not to God. (1 Corinthians 14:2,14).

Prayer is not simply saying words. It is not repeating formulas. God is looking for heartfelt relationship. We are told by Jesus not to make meaningless repetitions of words when we pray. (Mathew 6:7). Tongues may be meaningless to our understanding, but it is not to God. In a future lesson we will give more attention to this subject.

There is a lot of prayer that never reaches God. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself" (Luke 18:11). "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer shall be an abomination." (Proverbs 28:9). It is outside the scope of this lesson to talk about prayers offered to false gods or to the devil. Also, we will not look at religious prayers or traditional prayers that can be uttered without heart. We will be considering prayers that come from one who has repented of his sins to the best of his knowledge, and who walks by faith.

WHY PRAY?

1. We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love him. Just as a man and woman in love desire to be together and communicate, so we - if we love God - will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him in proportion to our love for Him.
2. We pray because we depend on God. God is our source. He is our life (Colossians 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life - both naturally and spiritually. Prayer - relationship to God - is as necessary to the spiritual life as air to the natural life.
3. We need to pray in order to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Mt. 26:41). Much sin is the result of the sin of prayerlessness. Through lack of prayer, we are weak, others are weaker and Satan gains the advantage in our lives.
4. We need to pray because it is necessary for men to invite God to act in salvation. God gave the earth to Adam and his descendants. We must invite God to work here. If no-one invites God to work here, Satan (the god of this world through man's universal rebellion - 2 Corinthians 4:4) will dominate the affairs of men and eventually the judgment of God will come. By inviting God often and specifically, multitudes can be saved that would otherwise be lost.
5. We need to pray because God commands us to pray. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2). "Then he [Jesus] spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1). The need to pray is as great as the authority of God which commands us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on the earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time. We should even deny ourselves sleep and food at times in order to pray more and with greater power. (Matthew 6:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 21:36; Colossians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 11:27).

HOW TO BEGIN

If you are not sure how to pray, don't despair! Everyone had to begin sometime. Just talk with God respectfully but openly. Talk with Him as your Father. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father ...". Recognize God as a loving



Go



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Coordinator Application

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your interest in becoming a volunteer for the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Knowing that you are busy and have many pressures that impinge upon your time, we deeply appreciate your willingness to consider "pitching your tent" with us. God has assembled an elite force for this endeavor. Our team is made up of extremely dedicated men and women who love and serve Jesus Christ and who have a heartfelt belief that prayer is the only hope for our country. Through their efforts, a covering of intercession blankets our entire culture - a "prayer shield" that is critical at this juncture when America faces turmoil within and grave threats from without. As our Task Force works to achieve the divine purposes to which we are called, we'd be encouraged to have you join us.



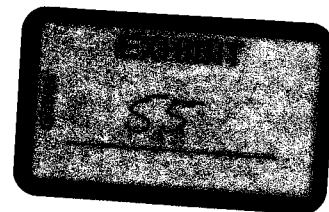
Shirley Dobson

To determine your personal and spiritual qualifications for this service, we would ask that you fill out the enclosed questionnaire. This process will help us, as well as you, decide if this commitment is right for you. May The lord lead you as you prayerfully reply - and may God bless America!

Shirley Dobson

[Apply online to be a coordinator](#)

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Profile Information (fields marked with * are required)

User Name* Password*

No more than 10 letters/numbers. No non-alphanumeric characters like @#\$%.

Suffix First Name* MI Last Name*

Sex Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Company

Address 1*

Address 2

City* State*

Country Postal Code* County

E-mail Address*

Day Phone* Night Phone

Cell Phone Fax

Coordinator Information

Read Shirley Dobson's letter to coordinators

Experience

Last/current employer* From (mm/dd/yyyy): To (mm/dd/yyyy): Position: * Responsibilities:

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? * Yes No

References

Local church/fellowship* Address Pastor/spiritual leader Phone

I have been an active member for* Years Months

List past, present, or volunteer ministry responsibilities (i.e. youth pastor, Bible study leader, elder, scout leader, etc.)*

Emergency Contact (someone not living with you)

Name Relationship Phone Alternate Phone

Give three other references (not family) that you have known more than three years.

1) Name* Relationship* Address* Phone* 2) Name Relationship

Phone Address
 3) Name Relationship
 Phone Address

Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based.

Statement of Belief:

I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God. I believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, the atoning work of his shed blood, his resurrection and ascension, his intercession and his coming return to power and glory. I believe that those who follow Jesus are family and there should be unity among all who claim his name.

I agree that these statements are true in my life. *
 Yes No

National Day of Prayer Volunteer Program Commitment

Coordinator Qualifications

- I. We would hope that each coordinator would maintain active involvement in a local church body as we believe this should be a person's first ministry priority.
- II. In both public and private life, we ask that you demonstrate the commitment you have made to Jesus Christ in the following areas: spiritual maturity, emotional stability, healthy personal relationships, financial responsibility, and a stable living situation
- III. We would request that coordinators adhere to the guidelines and philosophy that undergirds the National Day of Prayer, our mission is to provide support and resources that enable the planning of and participation in events that reflect these beliefs. If other people of other faiths wish to celebrate in their own traditions, they are welcome to do so.
- IV. We would ask that you set aside sufficient time for the work of the NDP Task Force in your state. This commitment varies greatly depending upon the number of our volunteers who report to you the activities planned.
- V. It is our desire that each volunteer would be dedicated to the teamwork model of the NDP Task Force and to the completion of their assigned duties. Our Task Force staff provides ongoing support and information and in return requests that volunteers agree to specific tasks and time schedules so that we can ensure successful events in May.
- VI. We would hope that the new volunteers joining us would share in the legacy of those before them who would have shown a passionate devotion to advancing Christ's Kingdom and the cause of prayer in our nation. As true volunteers, those who partner with us have earned our great admiration for their sacrificial work. They are the backbone of our ministry and labor diligently for God's glory, without any expectation of early pay, recognition, or compensation.

Having read the above statements, I am in agreement with the principles and guidelines mentioned and will subscribe to them as a volunteer. As part of my application process, I also authorize the references listed above to provide the National Day of Prayer Task Force with any pertinent information requested. Further, I release all parties from all liability for any damage that may result from use of such information by the Task Force.

I agree to utilize and follow copyright usage of the NDP Task Force promotional materials to 1) perpetuate the annual theme and national media opportunities and 2) ensure a strong, consistent Christian message throughout the nation. I commit that NDP activities I serve with will be conducted solely by Christians while those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend.

Finally, I understand that the National Day of Prayer Task Force regards this volunteer relationship as a mutual one that can be terminated at any time by either party without notice and without cause.

Applicant's Signature * Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*

EXHIBIT 56

Press Room

- Press Room
- NDP at NASCAR
- NDP Vision
- Event Summary
- Ministry Partners
- Champions of Prayer

Media/ Marketing Tools

Upcoming Events

Presidential Proclamation

Shirley Dobson Bio

Beth Moore Bio

Coach Tony Dungy

Ricky Skaggs

Brian R. Toon Bio

John Bornschein Bio



A Nation United in Prayer

Millions Gather on the 2008 National Day of Prayer

Throughout the nation, we witnessed a greater outpouring of prayer for our nation on the First Thursday in May than ever before. The number of the public-invited events posted on our Web site through our event tracker doubled from the previous year. We experienced more favor from local and state governments this year; more politicians participated this year, more access to government buildings, and even more governors (all 50 signed proclamations) and mayors participated. There was a wider scope in the type of events as well: planes, motorcycles, children prayer walks, buses, train, IRS, NASA and police departments. PrayerFlight; a group of Ohio based private pilots organized "50 Capitols" in which private pilots flew over all 50 state capitols, praying for their states. Military pilots serving overseas and airline pilots and flight attendants prayed while airborne as well. Prayer events occurred at past sites of recent tragedies; Minneapolis 35W Bridge Collapse, New Life Church shooting site and the Virginia Tech shooting site. YMCAs and the Salvation Army held events around the nation. In Colorado Springs pastors from 27 denominations filled the Pikes Peak Cog Railway and prayed for the local community and our nation on the 75 minute trip up and back the 14,000 ft peak. In Alaska, a 300 mile prayer train traveled from Anchorage to Fairbanks. In Bakersfield, CA, 30 churches lengthened the National Day of Prayer to three days, highlighted by the formation of a human cross with red shirts. Prayer events were held in 110 Federal Prisons, national monuments such as Mount Rushmore and the St. Louis Gateway Arch, military bases, stadiums, nursing homes, schools, town halls and in the Senate and Congressional chambers of many state capitols as well as the west lawn of our nation's capitol in Washington, DC. In rain, snow, sunshine or indoors tens of thousands of prayer events took place with every denomination and race present in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

In addition to the huge variety of venues, the prayer events took on the unique direction of our thousands of volunteer organizers. Prayer breakfasts, prayer walks, Bible reading marathons, motorcycle cavalcades, prayer at countless businesses, and even prayer balloon releases marked some of the creativity of our massive national network. Governors in Minnesota, Texas, Louisiana, and the First Lady of Nevada spoke at their events and were prayed over by participants. Attorney Generals and Judges participated in many states. President Bush held his eighth straight National Day of Prayer event in the East Room of the White House with Chairman Shirley Dobson and Honorary Chairman Ravi Zacharias sharing the stage with our President. In the Cannon House office building, home to the offices of our U.S. Congressional leaders, the Task Force hosted a prayer event with several members of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of our government which was televised around the globe.

Here are some Media Victories that God blessed us with:

- Web site: On April 30, we had a 300% growth in visitors over last year = 1.3 million visitors to our web site in just one day. 515% growth for month of April.
- NASCAR: The Furniture Row racing team again covered the #78 driven by Joe Nemechek at Talladega in the red, white and blue of National Day of Prayer. Our car qualified with the fastest speed and won the number one pole position to begin the race earning it prominent coverage on Fox Sports and USA Today.
- Radio: NDP was featured on Michael Reagan, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Bill Bennett, and Focus on the Family in April. At least 2500 stations nationally carried over 70 unique spots. Our leadership had radio interviews in every one of the largest 25 metro areas.
- Email Blasts: Focus on the Family, Family Christian Stores, Newsmax, and the American Family Association sent emails to over 11 million people.
- Internet: The National Day of Prayer spread the word on thousands of sites including Facebook, My Space, YouTube, and GodTube.
- Stores: Family Christian Stores partnered with the National Day of Prayer distributing bookmarks at 307



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EXHIBIT 57

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The First Thursday in May
May 7, 2009

Of Special Note...

- NPC Meetings
- NEWI NPC Project Launched
- Textbook Publication Announced
- First Friday Prayer Call
- Critical Concerns for Revival- IFA

Support the NPC



It's now easier than ever to donate using PayPal.

Prayer Ministries Spotlight

Waymakers (NPC)

Waymakers helps churches prepare the way for renewal and gospel advance by building local movements of united prayer, presenting weekend seminars and providing materials designed to equip Christians in

National Prayer Committee Prayer Connections are NPC sponsored projects and other national prayer endeavors that seek to call Christians to proactive prayer. NPC Prayer Connections provide support and direction, calling Christians from across the nation to unified, focused prayer.

There are three distinct ways in which the National Prayer Committee connects...

PROJECTS PARTNERS STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

PROJECTS

The National Day of Prayer
www.ndptf.org

The National Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Thursday in May. Before 1988, it was up to the President to call the nation to a day of prayer. BUT led by the efforts of the National Prayer Committee and then chairman Vonette Bright, in 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed into law that the first Thursday in May would be the day of prayer each year. The National Day of Prayer Task Force, led by director Shirley Dobson and executive director Brian Toon, oversees the events around the nation on this day.

Global Day of Prayer - USA
www.gdopusa.com

We have been invited to join the rest of the world in prayer! Beginning in 2000 with a vision for uniting believers in South Africa in a day of prayer and repentance a movement has swept across Africa which resulted in 22 million believers praying together in all 56 nations on the continent. Now our brothers and sisters in Africa have asked the world to join them for a Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost, May 2, 2007. America's National Prayer Committee is promoting and encouraging Americans to join in on this historic day in the history of God's people. At the October 2004 International Prayer Committee meeting in Thailand, seventy prayer leaders from each of the major regions of the world, met to consult and plan for the Global Day of Prayer. Among these were several members of America's National Prayer Committee. These leaders represent networks that affect tens of millions of Christians. The commitment to proceed was re-confirmed by these leaders as was the conviction that the Global Day of Prayer process should continue each year until 2010, in order to build momentum and fill the earth. This plan was announced and promoted to the nearly 1700 international leaders gathered for the Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization meeting nearby.

Nationalprayer.org

National Day of Prayer Task Force

2009

National Prayer Summit

Register Now!

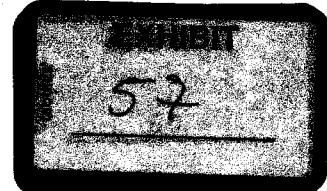
October 16-18, 2009
Colorado Springs, Colorado

National Day of Prayer

PRAYER

SUMMIT

October 16-18, 2009



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www.nationalprayer.org

God is doing so much in so many places across America and around the world that need to be known. This website was formed to be a communication hub to provide support and direction, news and testimony to what God is doing and to call Christians from across the nation to be in unified, focused prayer. It is a tool to help you find resources, ministries and events which will help you grow in your relationship with God through prayer. Search the pages throughout and you'll see how God is bringing His people together in the greatest prayer movement in history.

Task Force on Theological Education

The Task Force on Theological Education was formed in 2005 as a result of a discussion at a prayer conference. The discussion, between a number of prayer ministry heads, related to the lack of prayer education provided to ministerial students in Bible colleges and seminaries. Most of the participants had seminary educations, and none had ever had a course on prayer- personal or corporate- while in seminary.

Out of that discussion the task force was formed, and this group began looking at ways to make seminaries and Bible colleges aware of this desperate need. Many pastors start their ministries without a clue as to how to lead a church prayer meeting effectively, how to lead a board in seeking the Lord on a difficult decision, how to disciple in prayer.

The first recommendation to come from the Task Force was to provide a potential curriculum or resource to professor- either to use as a primary text book, or a supplemental one in ministry level courses. The first outcome was the publication of "Giving Ourselves to Prayer: An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry." Dr. Dan R. Crawford serves as the chair of the Task Force.

Praying Pastors Project www.prayingpastors.com

The Praying Pastors Project is a revolutionary prayer initiative that creates a network of ministries, individuals and business owners who want to enrich the prayer lives of those in their local communities. The project will create a network of volunteer coordinators that will solicit funds from donors in order to underwrite the costs of getting the book "Giving Ourselves to Prayer" and other prayer resources to all the pastors in the United States.

PARTNERS

The Denominational Prayer Leaders Network

The DPLN is made up of prayer leaders from more than 40 denominations. The purpose of the DPLN is to encourage and assist Christian denominations and fellowships of churches in mobilizing and training their congregations and members to pray for effective ministry, spiritual awakening, and world evangelization, and to work cooperatively with each other toward this end.

Church Prayer Leaders Network www.prayerleader.com

Vision: To equip every church in every city to become an effective, joyful "house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7). Mission: To serve the local church prayer leader (pastor or designate), empowering him or her to initiate, strengthen, and expand the prayer life of that congregation to the glory of Jesus Christ. Strategy: To provide a strategic network that empowers local church prayer leaders to fulfill their calling. CPLN began as the National Association of Local Church Prayer Leaders as a ministry of Pray! magazine. CPLN, now on its own, focuses solely on resourcing the prayer leaders in congregational ministry.

An Urgent Appeal [Click here to read the document](#)

In San Francisco in January, 1998, nearly forty denominational leaders, on behalf of the 400 members of Mission America, signed a newly issued "Nationwide Call to Prayer to the Church in America." Subsequently, The Call was published as a full-page ad in USA TODAY, signed by denominational leaders such as Bishop George McKinney (Church of God in Christ), Robert Watson (Salvation Army), Thomas Trask (Assembly of God), Robert Reccord (Southern Baptist Convention), William Hamil (Evangelical Free Church), and ministry leaders such as Billy Graham, John Perkins, Paul Cedar, Bill Bright, Jesse Miranda, Ron Sider, and over one hundred other national Christian leaders. Since then it has circulated widely throughout the body of Christ. The Call has two parts: "A Call to Extraordinary Prayer" and "A Call to United Action." It sets forth consensus on an agenda for prayer and calls for collaboration in mobilizing concerted prayer. The focus of The Call is corporate revival. As such, it provides a major step toward the document you now hold. This newer document, An Urgent Appeal to Christian Leaders in America for Consensus and Collaboration on the Biblical Nature and Hope of Corporate Revival, is designed to bring about even deeper levels of consensus and collaboration around the focus of The Call which reads in part: In recognition of our absolute dependence on God; the moral and spiritual challenges facing our nation; our national need for repentance and divine intervention; our great hope for a general awakening to the Lordship of Christ, the unity of His body, and the sovereignty of His Kingdom; the unique opportunity that the dawn of a new millennium presents to us for offering the Gospel of Christ to everyone in our nation— We strongly urge all churches and all Christians of America to unite in seeking the face of God through prayer and fasting, persistently asking our Father to send revival to the church and spiritual awakening to our nation, so that Christ's Great Commission might be fulfilled worldwide in our generation. In the spirit of The Call and with its vision, the National Revival Network of Mission America has drafted, with input from nearly 100 national Christian leaders, An Urgent Appeal

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Mission America Coalition
www.missionamerica.org

The Mission America Coalition is helping mobilize Christian leaders and individual Christians to collaborate together to reach America with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Our mission statement is "The whole Church taking the whole Gospel to the whole nation - and to the world." Through encouraging Christians to pray for, care for and share Jesus Christ with every person, the Coalition emphasizes spiritual unity, evangelism and revival. Spiritual Unity MAC understands that the task of evangelism is one in which we must work together. The harvest is indeed "plentiful" and one which no single ministry or individual can hope to accomplish alone. By working together we honor our Lord's prayer in John 17:21 "that all of them might be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me." Our unity points people to Jesus Christ. Facilitating and Encouraging Evangelism MAC encourages national and regional Christian leaders, churches, parachurch organizations and individuals to work together to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ throughout our nation. Through evangelism initiatives, living a lifestyle of evangelism, proclamational events and many other ways, the Coalition equips Christians to be obedient to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). Revival Emphasizing revival, MAC has helped summon the body of Christ to personal and corporate renewal through concerted, extraordinary prayer in communities, congregations and homes (e.g. The National Prayer Accord). Throughout this effort, Christians are being called to become accountable to one another in a way that is marked by holiness, godliness and kingdom-centered prayer. Global Ministries MAC partners are also involved in reaching out through international ministries - encouraging Churches and Christians to expand their emphasis on global missions.

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EXHIBIT 58

4-30-2007

New York Governor Signs Prayer Proclamation

by Jennifer Mesko, associate editor

Just four days before the national event, he joins 49 other governors.



After being flooded with phone calls from family advocates around the nation, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer today joined the other 49 governors in issuing a proclamation supporting Thursday's observance of the National Day of Prayer (NDP).

Dr. James C. Dobson, founder and chairman of Focus on the Family Action, sounded the alert on his national radio broadcast today.

Susan Castilla, the New York coordinator for NDP, said she was put off time and time again by the governor's staff.

"It seemed the National Day of Prayer was on the back burner," she said. "We don't get phone calls returned. You never hear back. This has kind of been a constant thing."

A staple of former Gov. George Pataki's tenure — an annual prayer breakfast — is not on the schedule under Spitzer.

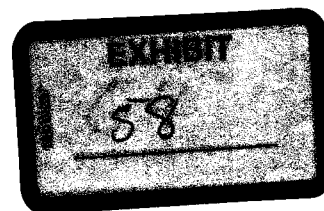
Castilla tried to get the proclamation one more time Friday. After she couldn't get an answer from the governor's office, she called Focus on the Family for help.

"Governor Spitzer had several opportunities to tell NDP representatives he would sign the proclamation," said Gary Schneeberger, senior media director of government and public policy at Focus on the Family Action. "Instead, his staff treated those who asked about it rudely. What other conclusion could we have drawn other than that he was not inclined to acknowledge the power of prayer for his state?"

"Governor Spitzer has never been a friend to pro-family causes. He's introduced a bill to legalize gay marriage and has worked to shore up abortion rights. He has not earned the benefit of the doubt from the pro-family community."

Jean Truty, who works for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said a letter requesting a proclamation was mailed to Spitzer in January. The letter asked for a response by April 1. Two weeks ago, the NDP staff started calling his office.

Notably, the proclamation that was issued today is dated April 25. Christine Anderson, press secretary for Spitzer, said delays can happen in paperwork. "He always intended to sign it," she said.



Anderson added that the prayer breakfast – which had been an annual event under the previous governor – was canceled “for scheduling reasons.” She said it likely will return in coming years.

“Dr. Dobson would personally like to thank all of our friends who called Governor Spitzer’s office,” Schneeberger said. “The important thing to note here is that all 50 states have now formally recognized the National Day of Prayer and its importance to our country.”

The theme for the 56th annual National Day of Prayer is “America, Unite in Prayer.” Dr. and Mrs. Dobson are in Washington, D.C., this week for the prayer events. Thursday’s guest speaker in the capital is Dr. Charles Swindoll. }

TAKE ACTION

If you’d like to thank Gov. Spitzer for honoring prayer, you may call his office at (518) 474-8390.

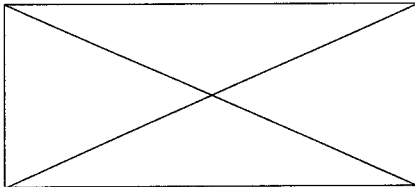
[Click here for a copy of the proclamation.](#)

To learn more about the National Day of Prayer and for a list of events in your area, visit the [NDP Web site.](#)

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N.Y. Governor Last to Back National Day of Prayer

By Eric Young
Christian Post Reporter
Tue, May. 01 2007 04:51 PM EDT

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NEW YORK – The governor of New York has joined the other 49 governors in issuing a proclamation supporting this year's observance of the National Day of Prayer.

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On Monday, less than a week before Americans across the fifty states were scheduled to pray for the nation, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's issued proclamation appeared on the Democratic governor's website declaring May 3, 2007, as a Day of Prayer and Reflection in the Empire State.

Although the proclamation is dated Apr. 25, there was no indication from the governor's office prior to Monday that a proclamation was forthcoming and the only official proclamation listed last week for the month of May was for Cinco De Mayo.

"Governors in 49 states and the President of the United States have signed proclamations designating a day of prayer," noted Dr. James C. Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family, in a statement released Monday. "Gov. Spitzer was asked in January to issue such a declaration by April 1st if possible. No response was received as of Friday, April 27. Phone calls from the governor's office were not returned, and pastors and volunteers who inquired were treated rudely and given no indication that a proclamation was forthcoming."

Earlier in the day, Dobson had alerted listeners of Focus on the Family's daily broadcast of the "slap in the face that the governor of New York has delivered to people of faith all across the country" and encouraged Americans from all states to call the governor's office in response.

"Considering what happened in New York City on 9/11, and the fact that New York has been most often targeted for destruction by terrorists, we believe prayer in that state should be a priority," Dobson said in his statement Monday, after the proclamation was officially issued. "We are pleased that Gov. Spitzer has now designated Thursday, May 3rd, as a day of prayer."

Related

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According to Spitzer's press secretary, Christine Anderson, the governor "always intended to sign it," reported CitizenLink, a ministry of Focus on the Family.

She added that the prayer breakfast – which had been an annual event under the previous governor – was canceled "for scheduling reasons."

But Gary Schneeberger, senior media director of government and public policy at Focus on the Family Action, noted that the governor's alleged intention was never made known.

"Governor Spitzer had several opportunities to tell NDP representatives he would sign the proclamation," said Schneeberger, according to CitizenLink. "Instead, his staff treated those who asked about it rudely. What other conclusion could we have drawn other than that he was not inclined to acknowledge the power of prayer for his state?"

Jean Truty, who works for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said a letter requesting a proclamation was mailed to Spitzer in January. The letter asked for a response by April 1, CitizenLink reported. Two weeks ago, the NDP staff started calling his office.

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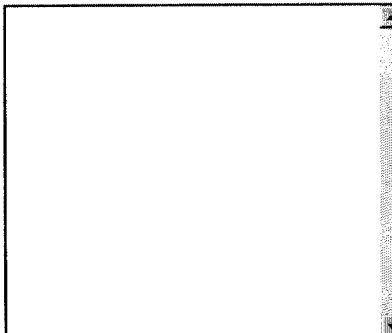
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"Governor Spitzer has never been a friend to pro-family causes," Schneeberger noted. "He's introduced a bill to legalize gay marriage and has worked to shore up abortion rights. He has not earned the benefit of the doubt from the pro-family community." Continue >>

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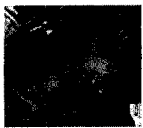
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Phony 'Official' Group Tries to Co-Opt National Day of Prayer [get the right wing watch feed](#)

By Ezra | May 1, 2007 - 5:38pm

Since Truman, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations declaring a non-sectarian National Day of Prayer, and this year is no different. What has changed in recent years is the rise in influence of a sectarian group that has appointed itself the "official" organizer of the occasion. The National Day of Prayer Task Force, headed by James Dobson's wife Shirley and based out of Focus on the Family offices in Colorado, admits that its purpose is "organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values" – in particular, evangelical Christianity based on Biblical inerrancy and fighting the "cultural war" – but it acts like it's a federal agency and the arbiter of the holiday itself.

This past week, prior to New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's signing of a state proclamation on the day of prayer, Dobson issued an attack on his radio program. Focus's Citizenlink web site [published](#) this indignant article on Friday accusing Spitzer of purposefully "insult[ing] and offend[ing] millions" of "people of faith":

We want to make you aware of a slap in the face the governor of New York has delivered to people of faith all across the country.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer – who just a few days ago promised to sign a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in his state, should one land on his desk – apparently has refused to sign a proclamation supporting Thursday's observance of the National Day of Prayer. The governors of the other 49 states have already issued such proclamations, acknowledging the need for America to unite in prayer.

Won't you take a minute or two – no matter what state you live in – to let Gov. Spitzer know what you think about his refusal to acknowledge the National Day of Prayer? Remind him that this country was founded as a Christian nation – and he will insult and offend millions if he continues down the path he is on.

Focus also asserted that "the governor of New York, which was the target of the vicious and unprovoked attacks on 9/11, does not believe the people of his state need divine guidance and protection." After Spitzer signed the proclamation, Citizenlink replaced the article with a [declaration of victory](#), asserting that Spitzer "changed his mind ... after Dr. James Dobson alerted the nation through his Focus on the Family broadcast."

However, the only evidence Focus has provided that Spitzer had decided not to issue a proclamation is that his office didn't return phone calls from the National Day of Prayer Task Force. From [Citizenlink](#):

Susan Castilla, the New York coordinator for NDP **[sic]**, said she was put off time and time again by the governor's staff.

"It seemed the National Day of Prayer was on the back burner," she said. "We don't get phone calls returned. You never hear back. This has kind of been a constant thing."

Castilla is actually the [state coordinator](#) for the NDP Task Force, not for the federal observance itself. Apparently, the NDP Task Force expects state governors to follow its commands, having [set a deadline](#).

Jean Truty, who works for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said a letter requesting a proclamation was mailed to Spitzer in January. The letter asked for a response by April 1.

Notably, the proclamation that was issued today is dated April 25. Christine Anderson, press secretary for Spitzer, said delays can happen in paperwork. "He always intended to sign it," she said.

Why is it so important to Focus on the Family that the NDP Task Force be presumed to be an "official" body? A clue might be found in the group's [prayer guide](#), which describes the media as "hostile to those who voice their belief in Christ" and schools as "promoting a radical social agenda" including "Condom distribution, and a refusal to acknowledge God." By co-opting the observance, the NDP Task Force isn't just promoting prayer – it's promoting the talking points of the Religious Right.

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4-29-2007

N. Y. Governor Changes Mind, Signs Prayer Proclamation

Reversal comes after Focus on the Family listeners call his offices.

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer has changed his mind and has signed a proclamation for the National Day of Prayer.

The reversal came after Dr. James Dobson alerted the nation through his Focus on the Family broadcast to the only governor who had not signed a proclamation for Thursday's event. Dr. Dobson extends his appreciation to all his listeners who called the governor.

If you'd like to thank Gov. Spitzer for honoring prayer, you may call his office at (518) 474-8390.

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EXHIBIT 59



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VENTURA UNDER FIRE FOR NOT ENDORSING NATIONAL OF PRAYER DECREE

Web Posted: May 9, 1999

Jesse Ventura has been in trouble before. He survived the grueling Navy SEAL special forces training, did a stint as a security guard for the Rolling Stones, and was body slammed countless time in the ring as a professional entertainment sports wrestler. Ventura then waded into even more dangerous waters, first by serving a four-year term as mayor Brooklyn Park, Minn., and then becoming that state's governor following an upset election victory last November.

He now may be taking on his toughest opponent, though, and it's all over the issue of prayer in government. In the opposite ring corner this time is the Minnesota Family Council, the state affiliate of the Washington, D.C. -based Family Research Council headed by presidential hopefully and religious conservative values guru Gary Bauer.

FRC has become the leading proponent of a Christian conservative "family values" agenda inside the beltway. Ventura's sin happens to be his decision to not formally endorse last Thursday's National Day of Prayer celebration, which saw nearly all of the nation's governors, and thousands of other state and local officials -- and even the President of the United States -- urge Americans to kneel and bow in supplication to Jehovah. In the midst of the national catharsis over the Columbine High School shootings and other events which religious groups say is evidence of America's profound moral decline into cultural pandemonium, Ventura was the only national political leader to dare and utter the phrase "separation of church and state," and refuse demands that he endorse the NDOP events.

On Wednesday, Ventura told reporters, "I believe in the separation of church and state. We all have our own religious beliefs. There are people out there who are atheists, who don't believe at all. They are all citizens of Minnesota and I have to respect that."

Tom Prichard, head of the Minnesota Family Council, criticized the governor's move though and noted that even President Clinton had proclaimed a day of prayer for the citizenry. Citing Ventura's decision to declare a Rolling Stones Day, Prichard lamented "I would think the governor at the very least would give equal recognition to a day of prayer as he gave to Mick Jagger..." The MFC official cited the recent shootings at Columbine High, adding "With all the tragedies going on, this is relevant and prayer is an important part of American life."

Ventura spokesman John Wodele replied to the MFC charges and defended the decision to not issue a proclamation supporting the National Day of Prayer. "It's apples and oranges. The Rolling Stones don't have anything to do with religion." Wodele added, "The reason the governor didn't issue this is because we do not issue proclamations for religious events."

"He (Ventura) fundamentally believes religion is a personal issue and not a state issue."

Any proclamation is signed by the secretary of state and goes on the state record. Ventura did have Minnesota issue a "certificate of recognition" issued, however, which simply means that the state is aware that the event is happening. "It doesn't declare it as a state-sponsored day," noted the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper.

Printed guidelines on such proclamation note that they "should not take sides in matters of political controversy, ideological or religious belief." Ventura has issued 51 of the decrees dealing with other events or groups. Former Governor Arne Carlson, though had issued a proclamation on behalf of the National Day of Prayer in 1998.

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trouble for the National Day of Prayer event. Although the NDOP Task Force says that the practice supposedly dates to 1795 when President George Washington declared a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, its real origins can be found in the cold war period of American history. Beginning in the late 1940s, a series of federal laws began melding religious mottos and oaths into the framework of government. In 1952, Congress decreed a National Day of Prayer, and President Eisenhower eagerly took up the task by instituting prayer breakfasts and similar events in the White House. The Hearst newspaper chain also began a campaign calling for the addition of the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, a plan supported by the American Legion, the Roman Catholic Church and most Protestant denominations. By 1954 the "godless pledge" was replaced by the current religious version; in that year Congress also approved special mailing rates for all religious magazines and related materials. On July 11, 1955, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 140 which placed the phrase "In God We Trust" on all currency and coins, and the following year he signed Public Law 851 declaring the god motto as a replacement for the more traditional "E Pluribus Unum," Latin for "One Out of Many."

"In the midst of the national catharsis over the Columbine High School shootings and other events which religious groups say is evidence of America's profound moral decline into cultural pandemonium, Ventura was the only national political leader to dare and utter the phrase 'separation of church and state,' and refuse demands that he endorse the NDOP events..."

Three decades later, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation which established the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday of May. He declared, "On our National Day of Prayer, then, we join together as people of many faiths to petition God to show us His mercy and His love, to hear our weariness and uphold our hope, that we might live ever mindful of His justice and thankful of His blessing."

While none of the laws established a government office to coordinate the event, the leading group is the National Day of Prayer Task Force operating out of James Dobson's mammoth Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs, Co. The group is chaired

by his wife, Shirley Dobson, and says that its goal is to "communicate with every family the need for personal repentance and prayer, and to mobilize families to personal and corporate prayer, particularly on behalf of the nation and those in leadership of all levels of local, national, church and educational areas of influence."

Day of Prayer events usually focus on state capitols, town halls and other government buildings, including the national capitol in Washington, D.C. An estimated 20,000 events were held on Thursday with some 2 million Americans ostensibly participating.

Gov. Ventura appears to be the only public official who openly refused to issue the official proclamation sought by the Task Force, and cited the First Amendment. One Associated Press reported says that Gov. James Gilmore of Virginia issued a "certificate of recognition," while Montana gave an endorsement. Arizona Governor Jane Hull issued a "brief note of support," perhaps in response to criticism she drew recently over a similar endorsement for National Bible Week. Governors in all other states issued proclamations for the National Day of Prayer.

PUBLIC RELIGIOSITY -- ENLISTING GOVERNMENT "PRAYER WARRIORS"

Several events have been created by religious groups which, increasingly, espouse a sectarian faith and political action agenda, and seek to incorporate the authority of government sanction. In addition to the Day of Prayer, events like National Bible Week and March for Jesus increasingly find religious groups bullying public officials to issue proclamations or other gestures of support. Some cases find government resources being used to promote or facilitate the events -- as when local police provide free "traffic escorts" for Jesus marchers, or if government employees are encouraged or ordered to attend the events. Energized "prayer warriors" also increasingly seek the support of local schools in advertising the activities, along with the usual

endorsements from mayors, commissioners, or governors.

The National Day of Prayer flap does not mark the first time for Ventura in locking horns with the powerful Minnesota Family Council. His administration reportedly backed an effort in the Minnesota State House to have the legislative chaplain offer "nondenominational" prayers which recognize the "religious diversity" of that body. Rep. Peggy Leppik raised the issue, telling the Minneapolis Star-Tribune newspaper, "The House is not a house of worship. It is a house of government, and the chaplain is there not to serve his own followers." According to Church & State magazine, Family Council president Prichard responded, "By requiring chaplains to perform nondenominational prayers, the legislature is, in effect, setting up a 'politically correct' state-mandated prayer."

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR VENTURA?

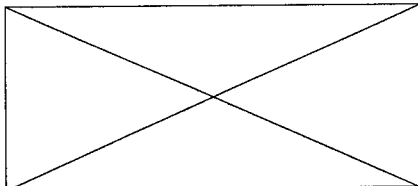
Less than six month into his term, Ventura still receives fairly high marks from voters and pundits who have watched his Reform Party administration shake up Minnesota government. "Jesse is very much a work in progress," noted Dr. Steven Schier, political science professor at Carleton College, and the public is "remarkably indulgent" of the new governor since they know he is learning while on the job. Ventura has stumbled on some of his appointments, such as that of Alan Horner to head the Department of Natural Resources. Horner lasted less than a week after it was learned that he had several driving and fishing violating warnings on his record. And Ventura, rather than use his popularity to promote new legislative initiatives, sticks to his promise of having less, and not more government.

Coincidentally, while the "prayer warriors" were gathered throughout Minnesota and other states to celebrate the National Day of Prayer, thousands of action figures in the likeness of Jesse Ventura were flying off the shelves at the Mall of America; it was the first day of sales for the dolls which come in three outfits, depicting Ventura as a SEAL commando, a coach, and finally in his suit-and-tie wardrobe as governor. 70,000 of the figures have been manufactured, and most of the profits go to charity. One ad for the figures depicts a Ventura doll banging his fist on a desk as he dismisses Evil Special Interest Man. Anyone got a Gary Bauer doll?



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50 Governors Proclaim National Day of Prayer

By Jennifer Riley
Christian Post Reporter
Wed, Apr. 30 2008 03:23 PM EDT

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The governors of all 50 U.S. states as well as the Virgin Islands have signed proclamations for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer on May 1, officials of the day of prayer announced Wednesday.

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Evangelicals 'Hijacked' Day of Prayer, Critics Accuse
Proclamations publicly acknowledge the day is designated for Americans to unite in prayer. Each of the state's proclamations and constitutions will be read during a prayer event at each state capitol, according to Focus on the Family's Citizenlink.

"Since the days of our nation's founding, public prayer has been an essential part of our heritage," said Michael Calhoun, National Day of Prayer (NDP) manager of strategic partnerships, to Citizenlink.

"It is very significant that the governors in all 50 states have signed proclamations – it lawfully cherishes and respects the religious heritage of this great country and encourages all Americans to invoke God's protection and guidance over our nation."

Calhoun noted that the proclamations are meaningful because the governors do not have to sign it.

NDP vice chairman Brian Toon, meanwhile, defended the focus of the day against recent criticism.

"Our focus remains," he said, "on mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leaders in the seven centers of power: church, education, family, government, military, media and business."

Non-Christian groups have recently criticized evangelicals for taking over the National Day of Prayer. They complained that the day excludes people of other faiths.

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" declares Jews on First on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines."

Critics complain that those who want to be official coordinators of prayer events are made to affirm the Christian faith.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson.

The national observance of the National Day of Prayer runs from 3 p.m. EDT on Thursday in Washington, D.C., and will be broadcasted live on GOD TV, and over the internet. Dr. James Dobson, his wife, Shirley, and Dr. Ravi Zacharias will be among the presenters.

Millions of Americans are expected to gather at tens of thousands of prayer events nationwide for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday. The theme this year is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" and is based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."

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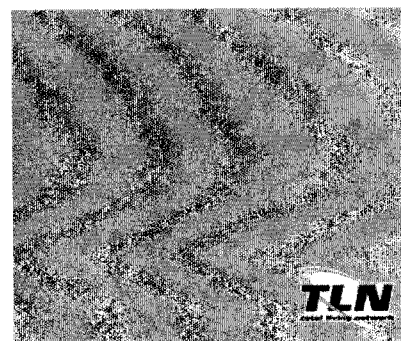
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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I look forward to joining our nation in prayer on May 1st and will be sure to remember Israel and their entitlement to the land God gave them by his covenant with Abraham. As a Christian, I pray more Jews discover the truth about Jesus, the Son of God and Messiah, our Savior and Lord who is coming again. Be Ready!

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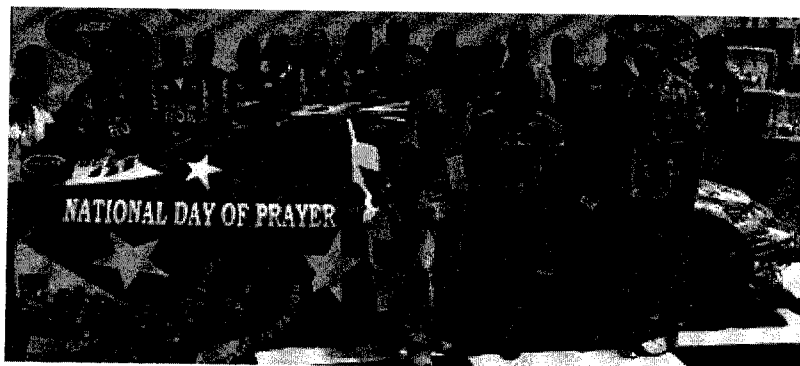
EXHIBIT 61

4-29-2008

All 50 Governors Issue National Day of Prayer Proclamations

by Devon Williams, associate editor

'Public prayer has been an essential part of our heritage.'



Dr. James Dobson, and his daughter, Danae, stand next to driver Joe Nemechek and NDP's Michael Calhoun in Victory Lane.

National Day of Prayer Task Force officials confirmed today that the governors of all 50 states and the Virgin Islands have

signed proclamations for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer, which is Thursday.

Proclamations publicly acknowledge there is a day designated for Americans to unite in prayer. Each state's proclamation and constitution will be read during a prayer event at each state capitol.

Michael Calhoun, National Day of Prayer (NDP) manager of strategic partnerships, said this is noteworthy because it is optional for governors to sign a proclamation.

"Since the days of our nation's founding, public prayer has been an essential part of our heritage," he said. "It is very significant that the governors in all 50 states have signed proclamations — it lawfully cherishes and respects the religious heritage of this great country and encourages all Americans to invoke God's protection and guidance over our nation."

Brian Toon, vice chairman of NDP, said the proclamations demonstrate respect for the day of prayer in the face of recent criticism.

"Our focus remains," he said, "on mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leaders in the seven centers of power: church, education, family, government, military, media and business." The national observance of the National Day of Prayer runs from noon to 3 p.m. EDT on Thursday in Washington, D.C., and will be broadcast live on GOD TV (Ch. 365 on Direct TV), and over the Internet. Dr. James Dobson, his wife, Shirley, and Dr. Ravi Zacharias will be among the presenters.

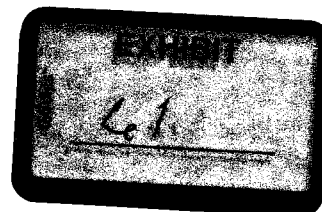
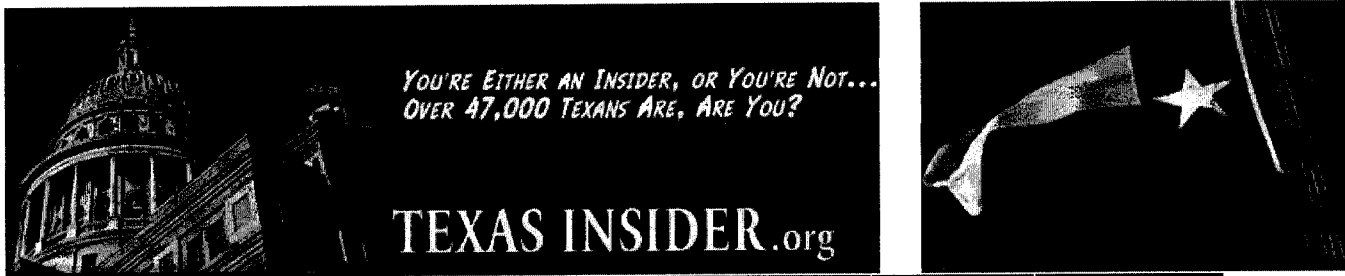


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Presidential Proclamation to Recognize National Day of Prayer

Published: 04-29-08

Fresh Ink



Each year, the President of the United States presents a proclamation for the annual National Day of Prayer. President Bush has issued a proclamation that will be read during the prayer events lined up for Thursday, May 1.

Excerpts from the 2008 proclamation.

"...America trusts in the abiding power of prayer and asks for the wisdom to discern God's will in times of joy and of trial. As we observe this National Day of Prayer, we recognize our dependence on the Almighty, we thank Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us, and we put our country's future in His hands. From our Nation's humble beginnings, prayer has guided our leaders and played a vital role in the life and history of the United States. Americans of many different faiths share the profound conviction that God listens to the voice of His children and pours His grace upon those who seek Him in prayer...On this National Day of Prayer, we ask God's continued blessings on our country..."

Through the efforts of the NDP Task Force, more than 35,000 prayer gatherings will be conducted by approximately 40,000 volunteers across the country. Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer for our nation and its leaders.

Prior to the National Day of Prayer events, the 57th annual Texas State Prayer Breakfast themed "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" will be held at the Austin Doubletree Hotel on Wednesday, April 30.

Florence Littauer, an internationally known speaker and author, will be the keynote speaker. She is the author of 30 books including How to Get Along With Difficult People, Personality Plus, Silver Boxes, and her most recent book, Making the Blue Plate Special. Through her commitment of over twenty-seven years of leadership, Florence has trained over ten thousand men and women by giving them the tools and techniques of effective communication.

Other features of the event include a Proclamation for the State of Texas given by Gov. Rick Perry, author of On My Honor: Why The American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For, Inspirational Music, and Concert of Prayer. Dr. Will Davis, Jr., who will be praying for Churches during the prayer time, will be available also with his new book PRAY Big.

The event will broadcast live on The Word 99.3 FM. Book tables will be available at the end of the program for book purchases and signing by authors. Doors open at 6:30 AM for reserved seating only. Reservations must be made by April 25.

The National Day of Prayer, an annual observance held on the first Thursday in May, invites people of all faiths to pray for the nation.

Beginning at noon on May 1, the National Day of Prayer, come to the open rotunda in the Texas State Capitol, extension, for a special time of prayer and music. You can print a prayer guide from the NDP Austin web site that includes areas to pray for such as government, media, education, family, church, military, and business.

For more information about the National Day of Prayer, visit www.ndptf.org. Go to www.ndpaustin.org for Texas event information. If you are interested in attending a CLASS seminar Florence Littauer and her team will be presenting in Austin following the National Day of Prayer, visit www.CLASServices.com.

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Individuals or groups are urged to come to the capitol during and visit their representatives to let them know they are being prayed for throughout the day and every day. For more information contact Greg Davidson at 512-228-4223 or visit www.aroundtherotunda.com.

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News Focus: National Day of Prayer

Article from: [The News Sun - Waukegan \(IL\)](#) Article date: [May 3, 2002](#)

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The 50th annual National Day of Prayer was an opportunity for millions of Americans to join hands in prayer for the nation and its leaders, including these people at Christ Community Church in Zion. -- Beverly Rdzak and daughter Melanie, 6, of Winthrop Harbor pull close during prayer Thursday at Christ Community Church.

ZION -- The forces of secularism must cringe every first Thursday in May -- the day the American government actually encourages its people to pray for their country and its leaders. The National Day of Prayer has its roots in the Continental Congress, when colonial leaders designated a time of prayer in forming a new nation.

President Abraham Lincoln called for a day of prayer and fasting in the midst of the Civil War. And the National Day of Prayer was finally established as an annual event by Congress in 1952.

Each year, the president and state governors issue proclamations in support of the day.

Last year, more than 30,000 observances were held nationwide.

This year, about 3 million Americans were expected to participate in events scheduled in all 50 states, including prayer breakfasts, Bible-reading marathons, concerts, rallies and student flag pole gatherings.

This year's event takes on new significance in light of Christian principles professed by President Bush, who has freely called upon God in both national and international issues and who has, perhaps, invoked the name of the Almighty more than any other president in the past century.

About 50 people gathered in the arching sanctuary of Christ Community Church in Zion for a noon prayer service Thursday.

They prayed for courage and they prayed for blessing.

They prayed for forgiveness and they prayed for President Bush and other government officials.

In his proclamation this year, Bush urged Americans to remember the words of St. Paul: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Bush also called on American citizens "to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a National Day of Prayer."

One man attending the Christ Community service thanked God for Bush's strong religious beliefs.

"Give direction to our president and help him truly seek your face," the man prayed out loud.

"Give his advisers wisdom, that this country of ours may be a light and a help and a blessing to others in this world."

"We acknowledge our failures as a nation and ask forgiveness," prayed Jon Wiziarde, the church's pastor of adult ministries.

"The failures of our nation have roots in the failures of our people."

Christ Community Senior Pastor Ken Langley decried "moral evils that hardly seem shocking anymore," including abortion, homosexuality and the ban on religious expression in public schools.

"I pray this day will not only be a day of thanksgiving for our heritage," Langley said quietly as he sat in a pew near the front of the church, but a day of grief for what we have lost of that heritage."

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Langley also asked for forgiveness for the church, which, he said, often fails to "boldly yet lovingly" proclaim truth.

"Make us a godlier church, then we will be a godlier country," Langely said.

Others at the prayers service prayed that the nation would show more financial generosity to emerging countries, for the healing of racial and ethnic and religious rifts, and for all those in authority, that they might make "just and moral decisions and acknowledge God in their lives."

"I came to pray for the sins of our nation and each individual, including myself," said Donna Hosleton of Waukegan.

"To ask God to have mercy and to be gracious to our country.

And also for those in authority, that they would do what is right.

And for the poor."

Karol and Thomas Brandt, members of Christ Church, said they came to pray for national leaders as a group.

"It's our responsibility to support our leaders in prayer," Thomas Brandt said.

"They need to think about the results of their decisions and to ultimately recognize that they will be held accountable to God for what they say and do," said Karol Brandt.

After the hourlong service, Wizarde said he was not disappointed by the small number who had gathered.

A second service was set for 7 p.m.

"The sanctuary will stay open until 10 p.m., and we expect people to be trickling in and out," Wizarde said.

"We believe God moves the world through prayer.

We wanted to provide people a place to do that."

(BOX) History of National Day of Prayer

- * 1775 -- The first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer.
- * 1863 -- Abraham Lincoln called for such a day.
- * 1952 -- Congress established National Day of Prayer as an annual event by a joint resolution, signed into law by President Truman.
- * 1988 -- The law was amended and signed by President Reagan, designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer.

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Wyoming Tribune-Eagle; May 4, 1999 ; 163 words...Wyoming will participate in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday with a prayer...Nachbar. The theme for the 1999 National Day of Prayer is "Light the Nation...with...Jim Geringer signed the National Day of Prayer proclamation, and called...

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Naperville Sun, The (IL); May 7, 2004 ; Ron Pazola; 501 words...Naperville Riverwalk during the National Day of Prayer on Wednesday. Pierson was...children and families during a National Day of Prayer service along the Naperville...to observe the 53rd annual National Day of Prayer. "Our leaders confront difficult...

Article: Area groups to gather for National Day of Prayer.(Neighbor)

Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL); April 28, 2007 ; Pierce, Victoria; 452 words...to observe the 56th annual National Day of Prayer. This year's theme, America...County observance of the National Day of Prayer, which will be from noon...formally designated as the National Day of Prayer in 1988. But the tradition...

Article: Students celebrate National Day of Prayer at Michigan State U.

University Wire; April 28, 2000 ; Kristina Hughes; 353 words...as part of the National Day of Prayer. "The National Day of Prayer is about coming...coordinator for the National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer was established...topic of the 2000 National Day of Prayer is ...

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Capitol Hill Press Releases; May 3, 1999 ; 276 words...ENCOURAGES SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Washington, D.C. - U. S...citizens to participate in the National Day of Prayer - an annual event which asks...for this year's 48th Annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6 is Light...

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Italian Voice, The; April 28, 1994 ; Alfred Weiss; 340 words...Citizens Prepare For The National Day Of Prayer. Thursday, May 5th, 1994...observance of the Annual National Day of Prayer. Americans are encouraged...theme, "Heal Our Land." The National Day of Prayer Task Force, a non-sectarian...

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Mt. Rushmore to be Site for Historic First Annual National Day of Prayer Event.

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Western South Dakota Plans Celebration on 55th Annual National Day of Prayer

RAPID CITY, S.D., April 26 /PRNewswire/ -- Organizers are expecting more than 2500 people to unite on May 4, 2006 at the amphitheater of Mt. Rushmore National Memorial for the National Day of Prayer. The 90 minute evening event will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and will feature government and civic leaders, patriotic and inspirational music, and pastor-led prayer. The slate of speakers will include Governor of South Dakota, M. Michael Rounds, Tom Minnery, Vice President of Public Policy for Focus on the Family; presidential historian and author, William Federer; Dr. Richard Wells, pastor and former President of the Criswell College, and Chaplain Lynn Wilson, SD National Guard. There will also be a special recorded message from Senator John Thune.

West River South Dakota National Day of Prayer Coordinator and Chairman of the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial event Rita Fischer said that the event will be a time for individuals, families and church groups to unite together to pray for America, its government, education, churches, families, media and military. The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "America, Honor God", taken from 1 Samuel 2:30 "those who honor Me, I will honor".

Two hundred fifty free "One Nation Under God" t-shirts and 300 archival lithographs of "One Nation Under God" by artist Marnie Freeman, Dallas, Texas, will be given away. One thousand free glow-in-the-dark prayer bracelets will also be given away to the first 1000 attendees. There is no entrance fee for Mt. Rushmore, but there will be an \$8 per car 2006 parking permit required.

The National Day of Prayer tradition goes back to 1775 and the founding of the nation and became a yearly event in 1952 when President Harry S. Truman signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress establishing the national day by law. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan amended the 1952 law by designating the first Thursday in May as the annual National Day of Prayer.

Fischer said that South Dakotans will be joining thousands in communities throughout the nation and in Washington, D.C. on May 4, when events will also be held at the Cannon Office Building and the Pentagon. Last year, over 40,000 events were held nationwide.

The May 4, 2006 evening prayer event will cap events being held across South Dakota throughout the day. Rapid City and other South Dakota communities will be holding local events to pray for their local government leaders and community needs, as well as for the nation. In Rapid City, people will gather for prayer from 7-7:30 a.m. at the City/School Administration building and at the Memorial Park bandshell from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for church-led "come and go" prayer times. There will also be a Community Prayer Rally from 12-1 p.m.

The National Day of Prayer seeks to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America, encouraging and emphasizing prayer regardless of current issues and positions, and respecting all people regardless of denomination or creed. The National Day of Prayer Mt. Rushmore National Memorial is the Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of Prayer and of the First Amendment right of Americans to gather, worship, pray and speak freely.

Event plans for Mt. Rushmore will proceed even in inclement weather except in the case that Mt. Rushmore National Memorial closes because of a blizzard.

For more information about state and national events, log onto nationaldayofprayer.org.

Planners of the event with Rita Fischer include Pastor Dale Bartscher, First Christian Church, Bruce Rampelberg, First Western Corporation, Stacey Wollman, Care Net, and several area pastors.

CONTACT: Rita Fischer, Chairman of Mt. Rushmore National Day of Prayer, +1-605-348-6691, or cell, +1-605-390-7492, dblrf@rushmore.com; or for details about the Rapid City NDP events, Shawn Hayford of YMCA Christian Focus Committee, +1-605-718-9622

Web site: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

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Nation's Cities Weekly; April 28, 2003 ; Johnson, Alicia; 675 words...to participate in the second annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on May 7, 2003. The National Day is designed to focus the attention...Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and National Day founding partners Teen People magazine...

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Science Letter; September 23, 2008 ; 546 words...appreciation for those taking part in the National Day of Encouragement on September 12 (Friday...values into action, participants in the National Day of Encouragement can help those in need...official proclamations recognizing the National Day of Encouragement, and schools, ...

Article: SEN. THUNE COMMEMORATES NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

US Fed News Service, Including US State News; May 4, 2006 ; 210 words...following statement commemorating the National Day of Prayer: "The National Day of Prayer was created by Harry...Communist Chinese attempts to conquer South Korea. Just as we prayed for our...direction as I serve the people of South Dakota. "I hope we can all pause on this ...

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U.S. Newswire; May 5, 2003 ; 700+ words...participate in the second annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, taking place May 7. The purpose of the National Day is to get teens to stop and think...innovative, online activity. On the National Day, teens will be encouraged to go...

Article: Teens to Participate in First-Ever National Day to Prevent Teen...

U.S. Newswire; May 1, 2002 ; 700+ words...1 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The first-ever National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy -- taking...will do to avoid teen pregnancy. On the National Day, teens will go online to <http://www...>out of control, gossip, and more. The National Day is sponsored by the non-profit, non...

Article: NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY RIDES AGAIN

US Fed News Service, Including US State News; February 14, 2006 ; 409 words...resolution today to recognize the second "National Day of the American Cowboy." "Folks love the National Day of the American Cowboy - that's for...resolution to recognize the second-ever "National Day of the American Cowboy" will state July...

Article: ENZI HONORS THOMAS'S LEGACY WITH "NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY"...

Capitol Hill Press Releases; February 13, 2008 ; 700+ words...Release Enzi honors Thomas's legacy with "National Day of the Cowboy" resolution February 13...designate Saturday, July 26, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy." For the past three years ...to name the fourth Saturday in July "National Day of the Cowboy," which coincides each...

Article: National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, May 7, Teens Nationwide...

U.S. Newswire; May 1, 2003 ; 700+ words...participate in the second annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, May 7, 2003. The purpose of the National Day is to get teens to stop and think...innovative, online activity. On the National Day, teens will be encouraged to go...

Article: LSU students observe National Day of Prayer event

University Wire; May 2, 2002 ; Jennifer Savario; 690 words...right direction Thursday, the declared National Day of Prayer. My dad taught me over the...an official event on campus for the National Day of Prayer. Nolen said the groups will...States is not exactly at its peak. The National Day of Prayer was founded by a joint effort...

Article: NorthWestern Energy and South Dakota PUC Remind Customers that...

Targeted News Service; January 19, 2009 ; 298 words...release: In honor of the first annual National Day of Service, NorthWestern Energy and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission are...save money and save energy. The National Day of Service is part of a broader effort spearheaded by the National Association of Regulatory ...

Article: Harding University Challenges Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas...

PR Newswire: September 11, 2008 ; 471 words. Who: Harding University students What: National Day of Encouragement Celebration including...with a Purpose -- t-shirts for sale National Day of Encouragement items available...world. --Andrew Baker, organizer of the National Day of Encouragement and executive director...

Article: [National Day of Prayer snub stirs controversy](#) ; [President Obama](#)...

Dayton Daily News: May 7, 2009 ; Meredith Moss Staff Writer; 513 words... Today is the National Day of Prayer, but not everyone sees...I think if we're going to have a National Day of Prayer we should include the nation...Percesepe. "For better or worse, The National Day of Prayer has become identified with...

Article: [SEN. ENZI HONORS THOMAS'S LEGACY WITH 'NATIONAL DAY OF THE...](#)

US Fed News Service, Including US State News: February 13, 2008 ; 700+ words...designate Saturday, July 26, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy." For the past three years...to name the fourth Saturday in July "National Day of the Cowboy," which coincides each...this enduring American icon with his 'National Day of the Cowboy' resolution," said Enzi...

Article: [Don't let South Dakota get you down!](#) 

Salon.com: March 9, 2006 ; Katharine Mieszkowski; 146 words... Yes, South Dakota has already passed an abortion ban, and 10 other states...Planned Parenthood has declared Thursday, March 9, a National Day of Solidarity with South Dakota. To find an event near you, click here. I know what...

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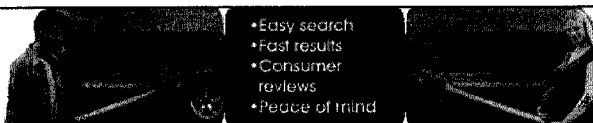
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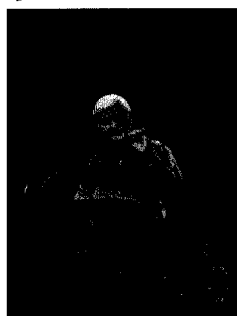
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Groups preparing for National Day of Prayer

By CHRISTOPHER QUINN
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 04/30/08

God is about to get busy.

Tens of thousands of people of faith will participate Thursday in the annual National Day of Prayer, throwing up supplication for everything from global warming to the war in Iraq.



Courtesy of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (ENLARGE)

Ravi Zacharias

With all the world's problems, those participating this year seem particularly solemn.

From Washington, D.C., where Ravi Zacharias, a prominent Atlanta Christian, will speak at the National Day of Prayer Task Force event, to the Church of the Apostles in Buckhead, where Gov. Sonny Perdue will do the honors, people will gather by dozens or hundreds.

"It's interdenominational, and it's across the aisles politically," said Bob Reccord, a Baptist minister who is helping coordinate the morning service and breakfast at the Church of the Apostles.

Participants in more than 90 Georgia services — from Acworth to Zebulon — will gather this morning or will pray all day in shifts, as they plan to do at Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

Most local events are organized through the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado, a conservative Christian nonprofit. Because the energetic organization works with Christian churches and groups, the services are largely Christian with few Jewish participants.

A smaller number of prayer services sponsored by other groups include other faiths, like the ceremony at the White House.

President Harry Truman established the day in 1952.

Zacharias, a well-known Christian speaker and author, will give the keynote address and prayer in Washington at the task force, event where other speakers include Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and prominent politicians, soldiers and judges.

Zacharias said that there is much to pray for, from the upcoming presidential election to the war in Iraq and the economy.

"I think the nation is obviously facing many, many daunting challenges," he said by phone.

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"My challenge will be, how does one approach a time of prayer when our nation is at a crossroads in so many directions?" he said.

He said he will exhort listeners on subject of God's sovereignty, man's moral imperatives in response and about acting in concert with God rather than asking God to act in concert with man.

Closer to home, children and adults will gather on the steps of the state Capitol for music and contemplation, and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle will speak at Peachtree Corners Baptist Church in Norcross today.

As a man of faith, Cagle said, he thinks having a special day set aside to pray for leaders and issues was only natural.

"It's a time of pause and reflection, and I think it's good for the state," he said.

For information on events: www.ndptf.org/custom/events/eventSearch.

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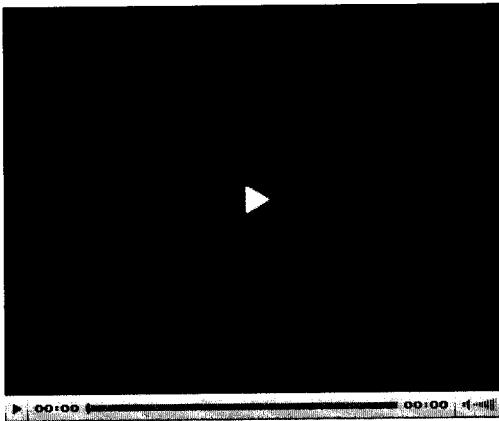


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inspiration

“Let’s Pray” the National Day of Prayer story

September 4th, 2008



Bigups and shoutout to Wendy Clark for sharing a word or “the word” rather... The **National Day of Prayer** is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the US nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition.

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of American heritage. Another important segment of National Day of Prayer includes the **National Day of Prayer Task Force**. The National Day of Prayer Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church, and Family.

The Task Force represents a Judeo Christian expression of the national observance, based on an understanding that the United States was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the GOD of the Bible.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through that history, including President Lincoln’s proclamation of a day of “humiliation, fasting, and prayer” in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

In accordance with Biblical truth, the National Day of Prayer Task Force seeks to: Foster unity within the Christian Church, Protect America’s Constitutional Freedoms to gather, worship, pray and speak freely, Publicize and preserve America’s Christian heritage, Encourage and emphasize prayer, regardless of current issues and positions, Respect all people, regardless of denomination or creed, Be wise stewards of GOD’s resources and provision, and Glorify the Lord in word and deed.

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for the US as a nation. It enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of GOD when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call to Americans to humbly come before GOD, seeking His guidance for American leaders and His grace upon the nation as a people. The unanimous passage of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual event that signifies that prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning.

Like Thanksgiving or Christmas, this day has become a national observance placed on all Hallmark calendars and observed annually across the nation and in Washington, D.C. Last year, local, state and federal observances were held from sunrise in Maine to sunset in Hawaii, uniting Americans from all

socio-economic, political and ethnic backgrounds in prayer. It is estimated that more than two million people attended more than 40,000 observances organized by approximately 40,000 volunteers. At state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, and in schools, businesses, churches and homes, people stopped their activities and gathered for prayer.

This year prayer was read by Dr. Ravi Zacharias, the 2008 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and it read the following:

*Holy Father, in a world where so many are hungry,
You have given us food in abundance;*

*In a world where so many are hurting,
You offer to bind up our wounds;*

*In a world where so many are lonely,
You offer friendship to every heart;*

*In a world longing for peace,
You offer hope.*

*Yet, we are so stubborn and resistant.
Have mercy upon us, Lord.*

*Our nation is at a crossroads this year;
we look to you to be our strength and shield.*

*Please give us the guidance to elect one who will honor you
and to respond to the wisdom from above
so that our hope may be renewed and our blessings be treasured.*

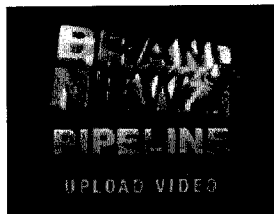
In GOD's holy name.

For more information on the National Day of Prayer, the National Day of Prayer Task Force and upcoming events, please visit www.ndptf.org or via Phone: (719) 531-3379, Fax: (719) 548-4520, and Order Line: (800) 444-8828.

Portions of this article were provided by <http://www.ndptf.org/home/home.html>

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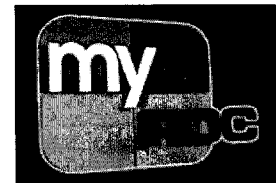
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National Prayer Day Is Set

UPI Published: January 29, 1953

President Reagan has declared May 5 a National Day of Prayer in an effort to "bring renewed respect for God." He said Friday that the special observance "provides our nation with an opportunity to further recognize the source of our blessings and to seek His help for the challenges we face today and in the future."

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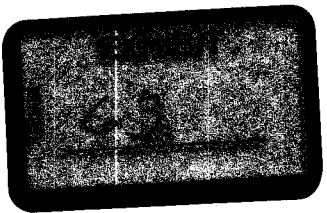
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The First Thursday in May
May 7, 2009

Of Special Note...

- NPC Meetings
- NEW! NPC Project Launched
- Textbook Publication Announced
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Prayer Ministries Spotlight

Waymakers (NPC)

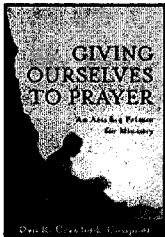
Waymakers helps churches prepare the way for renewal and gospel advance by building local movements of united prayer, presenting weekend seminars and providing materials designed to equip Christians in

Welcome



Welcome to the webhome of America's National Prayer Committee! This site has links to many prayer ministries, lists of prayer resources, calendar of prayer events, and the roster of America's National Prayer Committee.

New Textbook



Centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, America's National Prayer Committee exists to provide collective servant leadership to the national prayer movement.

National Day of Prayer Task Force

2009

National Prayer Summit

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Colorado Springs, Colorado

National Day of Prayer

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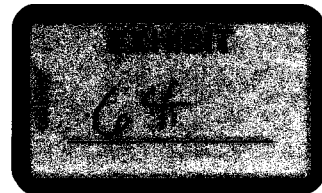


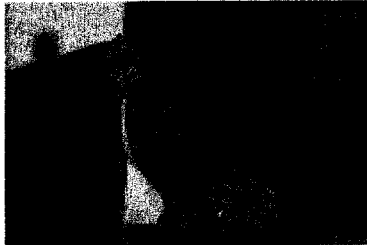
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"America needs prayer and your willingness to stand on the front lines with us in calling our nation to its knees is a blessing. We won't be successful in our mission without your partnership."

Each year, millions of believers across our great nation join together to worship and pray on the National Day of Prayer. However, behind the scenes is an intricate network of volunteer coordinators, prayer warriors and Task Force employees working year-round to increase the publicity and priority of prayer. Each year, their efforts bring the name of Christ out from behind church walls and into the public frontlines of all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

However, we need your help. As a nonprofit ministry, we are dependent upon the generous contributions of people like you to extend our ministry efforts. Your gifts allow us to continue the mission to which God has called us: to communicate with every family the need for personal repentance and prayer, and to mobilize American believers to prayer for our nation and its leaders.

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- Help instill a sense of personal urgency and conviction for prayer in America's families, churches, and communities
- Keep our Christian faith and religious freedom in the public square
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- Help train and equip national and state leadership overseeing many volunteers across the country

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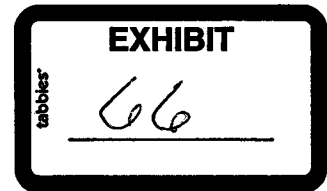


EXHIBIT 66



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THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE:
Turning a Day of Faith into a Rally for the Christian Right



The Texas Freedom Network Education Fund supports research and education efforts in support of religious freedom and individual liberties.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE:

Turning a Day of Faith into a Rally for the Christian Right

Executive Summary

Although originally established by Congress in 1952 as a day of prayer for people of all faiths, in recent years the National Day of Prayer has been co-opted by the religious right to advance a politicized, sectarian agenda. This is due in large part to a deceptive and deliberate strategy executed by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private organization that explicitly excludes participation by any non-Christian group in its programs.

Although the NDP Task force has no recognized standing with any governmental body, its Web site (www.nationaldayofprayer.org) bills itself as the “official” Web site of the National Day of Prayer. Further, the group’s extensive organizing efforts at the federal, state and local level have established it as the de facto national sponsor. This is evidenced by widespread endorsement in the media and, more alarmingly, by state and local governments.

In 2005, twenty-six state proclamations – more than half of all issued – adopted the NDP Task Force’s theme (“God Shed His Grace on Thee”), many of them using language taken directly from the NDP Task Force Web site. (See Appendix A.) Texas’ proclamation, for instance, anoints the NDP Task Force’s official theme and cites the New Testament text (Hebrews 4:16) selected by the Task Force as the official scripture for the 2005 National Day of Prayer.

In contrast to the original spirit of the event, the NDP Task force has cloaked the National Day of Prayer in a political mantle. Adopting the culture war language of the Christian right, the group explicitly instructs participants to pray about such social issues as “condom distribution, the promotion of homosexuality and a refusal to acknowledge God [in public schools].”¹

In addition to high-profile events in Washington, D.C., and many state capitals, the NDP Task Force also organizes local events in city halls and other venues around the country, more than 50,000 such “prayer events” in 2005.² These events apply a strict religious test for participants, excluding not only non-Christian groups, but also disallowing participation by any non-evangelical Christians.

History of the National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer has been around in some form since 1775, when the Continental Congress called for the colonies to pray for guidance in forming a nation. President Lincoln issued a similar call in 1863, asking the nation to join in a day of "fasting and prayer." It was not until 1952, however, that Congress officially established a National Day of Prayer:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."

-Public Law 324, approved April 17, 1952 by President Harry S. Truman

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan amended this law to establish the first Thursday of May as the official date for the National Day of Prayer.

By tradition, the president's annual proclamation has generally been a non-sectarian, interfaith call to prayer, as with President George W. Bush's 2005 Proclamation:

"I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, each according to his or her own faith, for the liberty and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance and protection."

Or President Bill Clinton's 1998 Proclamation:

"In every city, town, and rural community across our country, people of every religious denomination gather to worship according to their faith. In churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, Americans come together to pray."

National Day of Prayer Task Force

For most of the day's history, local community groups and religious leaders coordinated events celebrating the National Day of Prayer. That began to change in 1988, however, with the creation of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

The NDP Task Force is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to "encourage and promote events related to the National Day of Prayer." This is accomplished through a multilevel strategy, including organizing at the regional level (recruiting regional and city coordinators and other volunteers to plan and facilitate local events) and the national level (planning and leading events in Washington, D.C.). The NDP Task Force also coordinates an extensive national media campaign to call attention to these events.³

Since the organization's founding, the NDP Task Force has maintained close ties to Focus on the Family, which provided grant assistance to the Task Force in its early years. The Task Force is currently headquartered at the Focus on the Family (FOF) offices in Colorado Springs. The chair is Shirley Dobson, wife of FOF founder James Dobson; and the vice chair, James Weidmann, is also on the FOF payroll, according to the most current records available.⁴

The Task Force also appoints an honorary chair each year. In 2005, Rev. Max Lucado served in this position. In 2004, controversial conservative commentator Oliver North served as honorary chair.

The NDP Task Force now claims more than 50,000 "prayer events" nationwide and has an annual budget in excess of \$2 million.⁵

A Religious Test

"Our expression of that involvement [in the National Day of Prayer] is specifically limited to the Judeo-Christian heritage and those who share that conviction as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant."

- from National Day of Prayer Task Force Web site

While the NDP Task Force acknowledges that the National Day of Prayer is intended to include people of all faiths, involvement with an NDP Task Force event is explicitly restricted to evangelical Christians. Volunteers who wish to serve as an NDP Task Force coordinator are required to indicate their acceptance of the Lausanne Covenant.⁶

The Lausanne Covenant is a declaration issued in 1974 to articulate a specifically evangelical view of Christianity, an expression that excludes not only other faith traditions, but also Catholics and many mainline Protestant denominations. Among other tenets, the Lausanne Covenant requires a belief in:

- *Biblical inerrancy* – "We affirm [that the Bible is] without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice."
- *Christian Exclusivity* – "Those who reject Christ repudiate the joy of salvation and condemn themselves to eternal separation from God."⁷

4

Although the Task Force claims to be inclusive of the Jewish tradition, this is a disingenuous claim, given its strict adherence to the Lausanne Covenant. Further, NDP Task Force materials are replete with references to “Christ,” and the group’s sample event program calls only for the participation of Christian pastors and leaders.

In recent years, the Christians-only guideline has been forced on local community events, as NDP Task Force volunteers hijack traditional interfaith services. In 2005, for instance, local NDP Task Force volunteers preemptively booked the City Hall in Plano, Texas, and refused to allow representatives from non-Christian faith communities to participate in the National Day of Prayer event there. In previous years, this event had been an inclusive, multi-faith ceremony.⁸

A Political Agenda

“We can and must win this cultural war.”

- from National Day of Prayer Task Force Web site

The National Day of Prayer Task Force not only promotes a specific religious agenda, but a political one as well. The NDP Task Force repeatedly employs the culture war language of the Christian right, using its Web site and resources for local volunteers to disseminate information about conservative positions on hot-button issues.

For example, in 2005 the Task Force detailed “five great things to pray for,” including:

- **Media** – because it is an “environment hostile to those who voice their belief in Christ.”
- **Education** – because schools are “promoting a radical social agenda,” including “condom distribution, the promotion of homosexuality.”⁹

Elsewhere in its promotional materials, the Task Force targets perennial causes of religious conservatives – abortion, gay marriage, and the courts.¹⁰ The NDP Task Force pushes its information to local volunteer organizers, which can have the effect of turning prayer events into conservative political rallies.

In addition to advancing a polarizing political agenda, the NDP Task Force chooses politically divisive figures to serve as spokespersons, such as Shirley Dobson and Oliver North.

5

An Appearance of Government Sanction

Although it has no recognized standing by any federal, state or local governmental body, through its Web site and media campaign the Task Force deliberately cultivates the appearance of an official sanction. Its Web site header proclaims "The Annual National Day of Prayer Official Website." The Task Force also annually establishes an official theme and names an honorary national chairperson. The theme and honorary chair are aggressively marketed to the media, as well as state governments and local municipalities. This campaign to brand the NDP Task Force as the de facto national sponsor has been extremely successful, both in the media and with state and local governments.

Getting Government to Buy In

In 2005, twenty-six state proclamations – more than half of all issued – adopted the NDP Task Force's theme, "God Shed His Grace on Thee." Many of these proclamations also cited the scriptural text (Hebrews 4:16) from which the NDP Task Force derived its theme. (See Appendix A.)

None of these proclamations acknowledged that the theme was established by an unofficial, sectarian organization, creating the appearance that the theme was state sanctioned. For instance, New York governor George Pataki's proclamation read: "Whereas, this year's Day of Prayer celebrates the theme 'God Shed His Grace on Thee.'"

A review of all 2005 state proclamations strongly suggested that most states adopting language and theme from the NDP Task Force did so with the perception that it was official. In fact, Democratic governor of Montana Brian Schweitzer wrote an open letter to the Task Force announcing Montana's participation in the National Day of Prayer. He also stated, however, that the event should "serve to unite people of faith from every culture and tradition" – a concept at odds with the goals of the NDP Task Force.

Even on a local level, mayors and city council members have issued proclamations using language from the Task Force. In 2004, Phoenix mayor Phil Gordon issued a proclamation using the NDP Task Force theme for that year, "Let Freedom Ring."¹¹

Getting the Press to Buy In

The NDP Task Force has garnered significant media attention for National Day of Prayer events around the country. It has become increasingly common for media outlets to refer to the NDP Task Force as the official organizer of the National Day of Prayer. The Task Force's own press release encourages this perception, presenting its annual theme, chair and honorary chair without mention of their unofficial status. (See Appendix B.)

6

Numerous examples exist of the Task Force's theme and national chair being presented without reference to the group's status as a private, Christian organization. Below are just a few examples from press coverage of the 2005 National Day of Prayer:

- *The Associated Press* inaccurately named Shirley Dobson as the National Day of Prayer Chairwoman, rather than chair of a private group promoting the event.¹²
- The *New Orleans Times-Picayune* inaccurately identified Rev. Max Lucado as honorary chairman of the National Day of Prayer and listed "God Shed His Grace on Thee" as the theme.¹³
- The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* inaccurately named Shirley Dobson as Chair of the National Day of Prayer and directed readers to the NDP Task Force Web site.¹⁴
- The *Tampa Tribune* incorrectly stated that the National Day of Prayer was organized by the NDP Task Force and chaired by Shirley Dobson.¹⁵
- The *San Antonio Express-News* printed a column by the local National Day of Prayer coordinator, which named, without any official sanction, the city's theme as "God Shed His Grace on Thee."¹⁶

Let Us Pray... Together

After September 11, President Bush brought a renewed emphasis to the National Day of Prayer, focusing on prayer as an opportunity to bring people of all faiths together in the spirit of national unity. This is in continuity with the original intent of the day as an acknowledgement of the powerful roles that religious faith and religious freedom have played in shaping our national culture.

This sentiment is in stark contrast to the mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which uses prayer as a tool of religious exclusion and political division. While sectarian and political groups are certainly free to organize such events, they should not be allowed to do so with the sanction – explicit or implied – of government or the media.

The true danger lies in letting any sectarian or political group undermine the spirit and purpose of the National Day of Prayer – bringing Americans of all faiths together.

7

Appendix A

2005 National Day of Prayer Proclamations By State

States Adopting NDP Task Force Theme

Arkansas
Colorado
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Massachusetts
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
New York
Virginia

States Not Adopting NDP Task Force Theme

Alabama
Alaska
California
Connecticut
Iowa
Kansas
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
Arizona

** Proclamation from Montana could not be located.*



Appendix B

2005 National Day of Prayer Task Force Press Release

March 1, 2005

MILLIONS TO UNITE IN PRAYER REQUESTING "GOD TO SHED HIS GRACE ON AMERICA"

President George W. Bush and all 50 governors will proclaim 54th annual National Day of Prayer

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO (March 1, 2005) – As American troops fight for democracy and freedom around the globe, citizens of the United States are preparing to celebrate their freedom to gather, worship and pray. Millions will answer the call to prayer on May 5, the 54th annual National Day of Prayer, by flocking to observances held in public venues to pray for the nation, governmental leaders, media, and schools.

This year's theme is "God Shed His Grace On Thee" and is based on Hebrews 4:16 NIV - "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." National Day of Prayer Chairman Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder and chairman Dr. James Dobson, said "the concept of grace is preeminent in both the National Day of Prayer theme and the supporting verse for this year."

"The National Day of Prayer provides each of us with a powerful opportunity to humble ourselves before the Almighty and to seek the 'redeeming and preserving grace' Abraham Lincoln so eloquently spoke! In asking God to forgive our collective rebellion against Him. We can also pray for our schools, the media and especially our governmental leaders, asking the Lord to grant them wisdom and yes, grace, for the challenges they face on a daily basis. How encouraging to know that our loving heavenly Father listens and responds to our personal and corporate petitions, enabling us to 'receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'"

Noted author and pastor Max Lucado is the 2005 Honorary Chairman and will address the national event in Washington, D.C. In addition to his appearance at the national observance, Lucado has released, *Turn: Remembering Our Foundations*, which is this year's theme book.

About The National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America when the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer in 1775. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Available at <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.

9

Notes

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- ¹ <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.
- ² Allen, Mike. "DeLay Calls for Greater Humility." *Washington Post*. May 6, 2005.
- ³ <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.
- ⁴ National Prayer Committee, Inc., IRS Form 990, 2003; and Focus on the Family, IRS Form 990, 2003.
- ⁵ National Prayer Committee, Inc., IRS Form 990, 2003.
- ⁶ <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/agreement.html>.
- ⁷ <http://www.lausanne.org>.
- ⁸ Appleton, Roy. "Prayer event exclusionary, some say." *Dallas Morning News*. May 5, 2005.
- ⁹ <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.
- ¹⁰ http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/downloads/bulletin_inserts.pdf; "Prayer Lines." Volume 12, Issue 1. 2004.
- ¹¹ <http://phoenix.gov/mayor/proprayer.html>.
- ¹² The Associated Press. "Bush bows head on National Day of Prayer." *USA Today*. May 5, 2005
- ¹³ Staff. "Day of Prayer." *Times-Picayune*. April 24, 2005.
- ¹⁴ Hannigan, Candice. "Community of Faith: Churches to Mark Day of Prayer; '05 theme is 'God Shed His Grace on Thee'." *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, April 28, 2005.
- ¹⁵ Nicholson, Dave. "Group Gears Up for Day of Prayer." *Tampa Tribune*, April 23, 2005.
- ¹⁶ Dollar, Soapy. "It's Time To Go Further In and Higher UP IN Your Prayer Life." *San Antonio Express-News*. April 30, 2005.

EXHIBIT 67

WWW.INCLUSIVE PRAYER DAY.ORG

people of many faith traditions calling for an inclusive National Day of

Prayer

HOME

NEWS CLIPS ABOUT THE 2008 CAMPAIGN FOR AN INCLUSIVE DAY OF PRAYER AND THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE

Topics on this page include: [News about the campaign](#) | [Reports on inclusive, alternative observances of the National Day of Prayer](#) | [Typical reports and calendar listings for sectarian observances of the National Day of Prayer](#) | [Reports from the Christian right](#) | [Selections from the website of the National Day of Prayer Task Force](#). *Please also see the [JewsOnFirst.org 2007 report on the Task Force](#), [here](#).*

FACTS AND TALKING POINTS

SAMPLE TELEPHONE SCRIPT

NEWS ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN FOR AN INCLUSIVE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND RELATED LINKS

SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR GOVERNOR

How inclusive is the National Day of Prayer?
Some groups are challenging the exclusive nature of Thursday's official events, coordinated by conservative Christians.

By Jane Lampman, The Christian Science Monitor, April 30, 2008

PROCLAMATIONS ALREADY ISSUED

On Thursday, several million Americans will gather in special observances across the country to mark the National Day of Prayer, first inaugurated by Congress in 1952.

ALTERNATIVE INCLUSIVE OBSERVANCES

Under the energetic sponsorship of a national task force, the events have mushroomed into the thousands in recent years. They are held at houses of worship but also schools, courthouses, city halls, state houses, and at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

2008 NEWS CLIPS AND LINKS

CLIPS FROM 2007 DAY OF PRAYER

2007 REPORT BY JEWSONFIRST.ORG

This year, however, voices are being raised to challenge the religiously exclusive nature of the task-force effort, which is coordinated by conservative Christians who have encouraged government leaders' involvement in their events but rejected direct participation by other faith leaders.

Jews on First, an online watchdog group on the First Amendment, has initiated a campaign for an "inclusive prayer day" that has attracted the support of interfaith and civil rights groups, Muslim organizations, and various churches, including the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. [Continue.](#)

State of Belief Radio interviews campaign directors

Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, State of Belief, Air America Radio, April 26, 2008

Inclusive Prayer Day project co-directors Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak and Jane Hunter were interviewed about the campaign and the National Day of Prayer "official" Task Force by Dr. Welton Gaddy, host of State of Belief Radio. Dr. Gaddy is also president of the Interfaith Alliance, a major partner in the campaign and a sponsor of State of Belief.

LIVE HEADLINES ABOUT THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

[Prayer Day funds decried; Church-state issue cited](#)

Sep 06, 2008

Prayer Day funds decried; Church-state issue cited
Whittier Daily News, CA - Sep 5, 2008... spent more than \$8400

[National Day of Prayer and Reconciliation - Manila Bulletin](#)

[National Day of Prayer continues to expand - Cumberland](#)

[Community invited to take part in Cry Out America! pray](#)

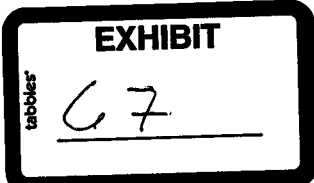
[LA SALLE COUNTY: County 'crying out' with hour of prayer](#)

[Prayer Day funds decried; Church-state issue cited - WH](#)

[Ethiopian Orthodox Church to take part in National Day](#)

[Hundreds take part in Prayer Caravan - Royal Gazette](#)

[Indian priests at Marquette talk of anti-Christian violence](#)



You can hear the interview as excerpt of the State of Belief program [here](#). Or, if you prefer, you can listen the entire program posted [here](#) with the generous permission of the Interfaith Alliance. Please also visit the website of [State of Belief](#), where you'll find an archive of radio programs and timely information.

Critics say Day of Prayer 'hijacked' by evangelicals

by Adelle M. Banks, Religion News Service, April 23, 2008, posted on the website of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

WASHINGTON -- Is the upcoming National Day of Prayer a day for all Americans -- or just evangelicals?

That's what some critics are charging in advance of the May 1 observances as they call for a more inclusive approach to an event they say has been "hijacked" by conservative Christians.

Jews on First, a 2 1/2-year-old online organization, has questioned the application process for coordinators affiliated with the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

While the task force is a private group, it nonetheless gets an unofficial government seal of approval with an annual proclamation by President Bush and prayer ceremonies held at the White House and on Capitol Hill. **Continue.**

Rabbi: Christian Right hijacks Day of Prayer

Norman Shoaf, Antelope Valley Press (Palmdale, California), May 2, 2008

Lancaster - "There is no faith unless it is interfaith," Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak told a gathering of approximately 60 listeners Thursday evening at the Antelope Valley Interfaith Council National Day of Prayer Service at the Antelope Valley Church at the Center of Light .

By turns cordial and confrontational, keynote speaker Beliak praised Valley efforts at religious inclusion - and condemned what he called the hijacking of the National Day of Prayer by the Christian Right.

Beliak is a leader of the organization JewsOnFirst, whose proclaimed mission is to protect the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and lobby for an inclusive National Day of Prayer. **Continue.**

New Mexico Public Radio probes inclusiveness of National Day of Prayer event at the State Capitol

National Day of Prayer Task Force officials declare event "official" and exclusively Christian

KSFR-FM, Santa Fe Public Radio, April 30, 2008

In this audio recording, excerpted with the kind permission of KSFR-FM, Rev. Mark Trost, a local coordinator for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, says that the National Day of Prayer is "not a religious event; it's a national event." He also responded to a question about why the group is having a Christians-only event at the state capitol, saying: "We're having it at the Roundhouse as the official National Day of Prayer organization which is based on the Judeo-Christian principles." Mark Calhoun of the National Day of Prayer Task Force acknowledges that they limit officiating to Christians -- "our views, values and beliefs." He also talks about the group's efforts to obtain proclamations from all the nation's governors. Rabbi Marvin Schwab of Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, speaks of the Task Force's "religious discrimination" and recommends boycotting the events. He says he believes it is inappropriate for the government to support "this kind of very narrow national prayer day" with proclamations. To listen to the 12-minute recording, please [click here](#).

Diverse gathering marks day of prayer Christian-oriented event leaves some feeling excluded

Robin Farmer, Times-Dispatch (Richmond, Virginia), May 2, 2008

State and local government leaders participated in a National Day of Prayer event on the state Capitol grounds yesterday that attracted a diverse crowd of about 100.

But some critics said the annual observance should be more inclusive, pointing out that only Christians spoke during the program. About six weeks ago, a group called Jews on First started an online campaign seeking to broaden the event, which it says limits participation to fundamentalist Christian evangelicals.

"It's great people want to pray for the country," said Don Fruhwald, president of the Central Virginia/Greater Richmond Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. "But it should be a voluntary endeavor that the government stays out of." **Continue.**

Day of prayer excludes some, protesters say

Lauren Garrison, New Haven Register (New Haven, Connecticut), May 1, 2008

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to gather today at sites across the country for the National Day of Prayer, as they have for at least the past 50 years.

But this year, a coalition of national and regional organizations as well as several hundred individual religious leaders are fighting to make the day inclusive of people of all faiths.

The effort is being spearheaded by Jews on First, an organization that works to defend the First Amendment. The group's goal for this year is to convince governors not to issue proclamations for the day, which they believe has been "hijacked" by evangelical Christians. **Continue.**

National Day Of Prayer Showcases Intolerant Religious Right Agenda, Says Americans United Government Officials Should Not Promote Dobson Prayer Task Force Events, Church-State Watchdog Group Says

News release, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, April 25, 2008

Intolerant Religious Right groups are dominating observance of the National Day of Prayer and government officials should refuse to lend them support, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer scheduled for May 1 this year has been largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda.

"In many cases, this event is more about politics than prayer," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's just another excuse for the Religious Right to attack church-state separation." **Continue.**

Evangelicals 'Hijacked' Day of Prayer, Critics Accuse

Crosswalk.com, April 28, 2008. (Full text)

The Christian Post reports that non-Christian critics are accusing evangelicals of taking over the upcoming National Day of Prayer, which they complain excludes other religions. "The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" declares Jews on First on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines." The 57th annual National Day of Prayer is on May 1 this year. The theme is: "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," based on Psalm 28:7

Jews on First specifically protests against the application to be a NDoP coordinator: "The volunteers who organize the events... are required to pledge that they will only invite Christian clergy to officiate. The volunteers themselves have to ... make a statement of faith that is very narrowly drawn so that

only a conservative evangelical Christian would be comfortable doing it," said Jane Hunter, co-director of Jews on First. [Click here](#).

Evangelicals 'Hijacked' Day of Prayer, Critics Accuse

Jennifer Riley, Christian Post, April 25 2008

Non-Christian critics are accusing evangelicals of taking over the upcoming National Day of Prayer, which they complain excludes faithfuls from other religions.

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" declares Jews on First on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines."

Millions of Americans are expected to gather at tens of thousands of prayer events nationwide for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer on May 1. The theme this year is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" and is based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped." [Continue](#).

Jewish group says the Christian right has appropriated National Day of Prayer

Bruce Tomas, The Dallas Morning News Religion Blog, April 25, 2008

Jews on First, a liberal group created in 2005 "to oppose the growing strength of the Christian right," is complaining that the National Day of Prayer (May 1) has been hijacked by the evangelical right.

"What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines," the group said.

Here's the story by Adelle M. Banks of Religion News Service. [Continue](#).

REPORTS ON INCLUSIVE, ALTERNATIVE OBSERVANCES OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Interfaith Alliance makes presence felt at National Day of Prayer event.

Ron Orozco, The Fresno Bee (Fresno, California), May 1, 2008

"It's not just a Christian event," Mayor Alan Autry said, and people of several faiths had their chance to pray -- and talk -- at Thursday's National Day of Prayer event at Fresno City Hall.

Autry, one of the speakers at the event, invited people in the audience, particularly Jews and Muslims, to speak. It was the first time in the event's 16 years that there was an open mike.

Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Fresno, spoke briefly in Arabic before praying for God's blessings particularly on "those who don't have the means." [Continue](#).

National Day of Prayer at Fresno City Hall

Mike Rhodes, San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center, May 2, 2008

The conservative power structure in Fresno attempted to have a "Christian Only" prayer service at City Hall as a part of the National Day of Prayer. Their exclusionary event was thwarted when members of the Interfaith Alliance of Central California showed up holding signs saying One Nation/Many Faiths. See and hear what the mayor, city manager, police chief, and Kamal Abu-Shamsieh of the Islamic Cultural Center had to say in the videos below.

Mayor Autry said "I believe the separation of church and state is good, but as mayor I can not leave office without saying once again that separation of God from state is nothing less than disastrous."

[Continue](#).

Two Day of Prayer events held in Plano

Theodore Kim, The Dallas Morning News, May 2, 2008

Plano □ A city-backed multicultural group and a collection of mostly Christian clergy held dueling prayer services here today.

The events, to mark a federally-proclaimed national day of prayer, followed a dispute over where each group could pray.

At the City Council chamber, Roy Frady of Plano's WillowCreek Fellowship Church led a service where Christian clergy prayed for a series of city services and entities ranging from the council to the Building and Planning Department. **Continue.**

Faces Of Prayer

Group holds interfaith service during lawmakers' annual event

Ford Turner, The Patriot-News (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania), May 7, 2008

The question of how to pray for Pennsylvania had two different answers yesterday morning.

One was indoors, one was outside. One was Christian, one involved various faiths.

And one, the outdoor interfaith service, was offered as an alternative to the other, the annual Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast organized by state legislators. **Continue.**

Religions pray together at 'unofficial' service

James Fuller, Daily Herald (Chicago, Illinois), May 2, 2008

A United Nations of religions gathered in Naperville Thursday night to join together in a common purpose and voice in celebration of the National Day of Prayer.

The "unofficial" service was created this year to welcome religious perspectives beyond the conservative Christian messages that dominated many other DuPage County prayer services Thursday.

Unitarian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, Hindu and Christian faithful took turns delivering and explaining prayers with a similar theme. **Continue.**

TYPICAL REPORTS AND CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR SECTARIAN OBSERVANCES OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day Of Prayer: Politics of faith

Mary Warner, The Patriot-News, (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania), May 2, 2008

Prayers were raised Thursday from the Capitol steps in Harrisburg for a "wall of fire" protecting U.S. soldiers and for a government "strong on the principles we were founded on."

Whispering "Yes, Jesus," their hands lifted, about 100 people were led in prayers that also sought guidance for businesses, the media, education and families.

It was the annual National Day of Prayer, coordinated this year in Harrisburg by March for Jesus. **Continue.**

Two Day of Prayer events held in Plano

Theodore Kim, The Dallas Morning News, May 2, 2008

Plano □ A city-backed multicultural group and a collection of mostly Christian clergy held dueling prayer services here today.

The events, to mark a federally-proclaimed national day of prayer, followed a dispute over where each

group could pray.

At the City Council chamber, Roy Frady of Plano's WillowCreek Fellowship Church led a service where Christian clergy prayed for a series of city services and entities ranging from the council to the Building and Planning Department. Continue.

Prayer rally set for Thursday morning at courthouse

Rachel Smeda, Columbia Missourian (Columbia, Missouri), April 30, 2008

Columbia □ Prayer is expected to draw hundreds of Columbians to rally at the Boone County Courthouse at 11:30 Thursday morning. Similar events centered around prayer will happen across the country today as part of the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer.

Jeffrey Huffman, of Family Worship Center and the courthouse rally coordinator, said he looks forward to seeing area churches come together.

Columbia pastors and others will lead prayer at the rally, including Fire Battalion Chief James Weaver and First Ward Councilman Paul Sturtz. Col. Jim Coy, a retired military officer, will be leading a prayer for the troops. Continue.

Campus ministries prepare for prayer

Brianna Murphey, East Tennessean, a student newspaper of East Tennessee State University, April 21, 2008

While followers of many different faiths submit prayers to some higher power, the main observers of the National Day of Prayer at ETSU will be Christian.

While the focus of the event, scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the ETSU Carillon, is on Christian prayer, it is open to people of all faiths, said Susan Rogers, a technical clerk in the admissions office who organized the campus observance.

The first national observance occurred in 1952, after the resolution was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Harry Truman. Continue.

Community to gather for National Day of Prayer

By Linda Andrade Rodrigues, Standard-Times (Massachusetts south coast), April 26, 2008

In recognition that prayer has been and continues to be an integral part of our nation's history, SouthCoast residents will gather Thursday at town halls, on campus and in a prison chapel to exercise their religious freedom by gathering publicly to worship and pray for our land. Continue.

National Day of Prayer breakfast sponsored

Rensselaer Republican (Rensselaer, Indiana), April 22, 2008

Jasper County Community Services will be hosting, for the third year, a breakfast and program acknowledging the National Day of Prayer. At 7:30 a.m. May 1 a free breakfast will be offered at a special morning program designated to honor the 57th Annual National Day of Prayer.

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee will be served from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. Music will be provided by "Leslie Callaway and Robin Spitters" beginning at 7:30 a.m. Soloist, Kathy Blahnik will also be sharing song selections during the program. Continue.

Local events will mark National Day of Prayer

By Tom Lavis, Tribune Democrat (Johnstown, Pennsylvania), April 25, 2008

Instead of the typical lineup of guest speakers, organizers of the 57th annual National Day of Prayer

are calling upon the community to come together for a relaxed gathering to commune with God.

The hour-long event will begin at noon Thursday near the Central Park gazebo in downtown Johnstown.

The theme is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" and is based on Psalm 28:7, which states: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped." **Continue.**

Collective prayer in stadiums and city halls

By Tim Townsend, St. Louis Dispatch, April 26, 2008

Organized, collective prayer has become popular in recent years, and in the first two weeks of May, some St. Louis Christians will take part in two large prayer events.

The first is the National Day of Prayer, which will take place Thursday □ mostly around city hall flagpoles □ across the country.

The National Day of Prayer, which is held annually on the first Thursday of May, was created in 1952 by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Harry Truman, according to the National Day of Prayer Task Force website.

Its mission is "mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family."

The Gateway National Day of Prayer organizers have planned several events throughout the area. Midday events Thursday will be held in the St. Louis City Hall Rotunda, the St. Charles Old Court House, Arnold City Hall and 28 locations in St. Louis County. The organizers also planned regional events Thursday evening, including worship and prayer under the Arch. **Continue.**

National Day of Prayer is Thursday

By Richard Vara, Houston Chronicle, April 25, 2008

Suzette Caldwell expects more than 3,000 people to gather downtown Thursday at Jones Plaza to sing, pray and □ maybe □ dance.

Similar gatherings will be held in other cities and churches marking the National Day of Prayer across the country.

"I wholeheartedly expect Houston to benefit from the people of Houston coming to pray in a unified fashion," said Caldwell, head of the Kingdom Builders Prayer Institute, a nonprofit group dedicated to praying. "I think we will see results in the days, weeks and years to come." **Continue.**

Churches hosting events for National Day of Prayer

by Christopher Ortiz, The Greeley Tribune (Colorado), April 26, 2008

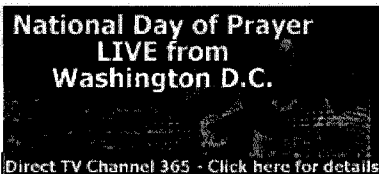
Greeley church groups will host a series of events to commemorate National Day of Prayer on Thursday.

This year, the focus of prayer will be on seven points of influence in America: government, military, media, business, education, church and family. This year's theme is "Prayer, America's Strength and Shield" from Psalm 28:7, which states: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."

Starting off, people of all Christian faiths are invited for an observance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Weld County Centennial Center Plaza, at the corner of 9th Avenue and 9th Street. **Continue.**

FROM THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT

Focus on the Family advertisement for Washington, DC event

Focus on the Family email received on April 24, 2008

The Focus on the Family email states: "The National Day of Prayer is celebrating 57 years, and for the first time ever, will be broadcast LIVE from our Nations Capitol on May 1, 2008. As a proud media partner of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, GOD TV will air the program live in its entirety on DIRECTV, channel 365. This special event will begin at 12:00 noon and

conclude at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)."

The email lists as speakers Focus on the Family head Dr. James Dobson, National Day of Prayer Task Force Chair Shirley Dobson, Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice ("pending") and others. Please [click here](#) to see the ad saved as a PDF document.

Task Force honorary chair attacked from right over "inclusive" prayer omitting mention of Jesus

Summary by JewsOnFirst.org, April 25, 2008

On April 24 Christian talk show host Ingrid Schlueter issued a statement that Dr. Ravi Zacharias, "the 2008 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer" (so designated by the National Day of Prayer Task Force) had posted a **prayer** lacking reference to Jesus on the "official NDP website." Schlueter wrote that the Task Force had told her that the omission was to avoid offending Jews. She termed it a "betrayal of Jesus Christ."

Since her posting, Schlueter has been discussing the issue on her **blog**. She has also responded to a *Mother Jones* **blog posting** about the Task Force and her attack on Zacharias.

Ashamed of Jesus at the National Day of Prayer

News Release, Ingrid Schlueter, Crosstalk Radio Talk Show, VCY America Radio Network via Christian Newswire, April 24, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY, April 24 /Christian Newswire/ -- The 2008 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer, Dr. Ravi Zacharias, is refusing to pray in the name of Jesus Christ in his prayer posted on the official NDP website. Dr. Zacharias' prayer can be read here. A receptionist with the National Day of Prayer in Colorado Springs stated that the Honorary Chairman's prayer does not include the name of Jesus so as not to offend the Jewish participants in the event, and that others are free to pray in Jesus name if they desire. Contrast that betrayal of Jesus Christ with the faithfulness of the first martyr, the Apostle Stephen, who died in a hail of stones for his fearless preaching of Christ crucified to the Jewish religious leaders of his day.

Banning Jesus: What a "Judeo-Christian" Prayer Service Looks Like

Ingrid Schlueter, Slice of Laodicea blog, April 26 and earlier 2008

I received this email from a reader this morning. If we truly love the Jewish people and their souls, we can never put Jesus away in the closet to appease them. Jesus said that He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Nobody can come to the Father, except through Him. Here's the email.

Thank you for keeping everyone informed on what's happening with the National Day of Prayer. I have emailed Ravi's ministry informing them how far we have fallen if we will now deny our Savior Jesus in front of men. **Continue.**

FROM THE WEBSITES OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE**What it takes to Become a Coordinator**

A simple application with contact data and statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ is all that's needed to get you on the way to becoming a NDP Task Force volunteer coordinator. ***National***

Day of Prayer Task Force Coordinators

Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based. **About the National Day of Prayer Task Force**

How to Adopt-a-Leader

It is so important to encourage and pray for those who govern us. Here's some ways to adopt-a-leader (a kit is also available from our Store).

First, choose a leader God lays on your heart. You may watch your local newspaper or news on television or look at the sites below. Ask the Lord's direction in choosing a leader. Some people to pray for are government officials, police officers, teachers, firefighters, and military personal

Here are some resources for finding government leaders to pray for: **Adopt A Leader (on the schools page)**

Drive Thru History

The National Day of Prayer, in partnership with historian David Barton and Coldwater Media, is proud to present Drive Thru History America, a new, cutting-edge, multi-media curriculum that teaches the history of our nation from a Christian Worldview. Discover the character, faith, experiences and accomplishments of America's Founders as they developed this great country where we can worship, work, travel, and live in freedom! In this adventure-filled teaching series, you'll travel to Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Virginia to learn about the life and times of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams, Benjamin Banneker, and more. **National Day of Prayer Task Force Schools, May 3, 3007**

The call for an *Inclusive* National Day of Prayer is a project of **JewsOnFirst.org**.

EXHIBIT 68

April 23, 2008

Critics say Day of Prayer 'hijacked' by evangelicals

by Adelle M. Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON -- Is the upcoming National Day of Prayer a day for all Americans -- or just evangelicals?

That's what some critics are charging in advance of the May 1 observances as they call for a more inclusive approach to an event they say has been "hijacked" by conservative Christians.

Jews on First, a 21/2-year-old online organization, has questioned the application process for coordinators affiliated with the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

While the task force is a private group, it nonetheless gets an unofficial government seal of approval with an annual proclamation by President Bush and prayer ceremonies held at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

Jews on First is spearheading an "Inclusive National Day of Prayer" campaign that includes a Web site featuring talking points, sample letters to governors and a list of "alternative inclusive observances."

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" the group declares on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines."

Jane Hunter, the co-director of Jews on First, said her group has interfaith volunteers in several states who are urging their governors to issue inclusive proclamations about the annual observance.

"The volunteers who organize the events ... are required to pledge that they will only invite Christian clergy to officiate," said Hunter, a longtime Jewish activist who lives in Bethesda, Md. "The volunteers themselves have to ... make a statement of faith that is very narrowly drawn so that only a conservative evangelical Christian would be comfortable doing it."

The National Day of Prayer is always observed on the first Thursday in May, this year on May 1. Becky Armstrong, a spokeswoman for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said the same application for coordinators has been "used for years."

"The task force has chosen to conduct events that reflect its Christian perspective on prayer," she said. "All Americans are free to exercise their First Amendment rights to organize events that observe the National Day of Prayer in a manner that reflects their religious perspective."

The task force's Web site (www.ndptf.org), features a note from Lisa Crump, the manager of local coordinators, that says, "A simple application with contact data and statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ is all that's needed to get you on the way to becoming a NDP Task Force volunteer coordinator."

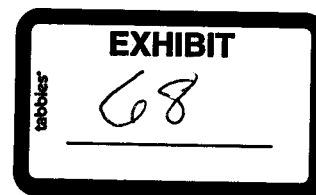
Applicants must indicate if their lives reflect a belief statement that begins: "I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God."

The application form also asks coordinators to pledge that activities they help lead "will be conducted solely by Christians while those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

The Jews on First effort has been supported by other church-state watchdog groups, such as those affiliated with the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Americans United's local chapter in Orange County, Calif., sent more than 2,000 letters to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him not to support events whose hosts are limited to evangelical Christians.

"It seems to say that if you're not part of that group, then you're a second-class citizen," said Stephanie Campbell, president of the chapter.



Lisa Page, chief deputy press secretary for Schwarzenegger, said the governor's office receives numerous requests each year for a National Day of Prayer proclamation and "the governor has always been inclusive of all faiths on this special day."

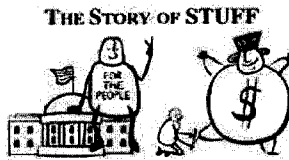
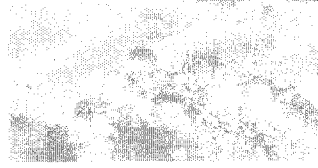
Among several "alternative inclusive observances" listed online by Jews on First (www.InclusivePrayerDay.org) is one on May 6 in the Harrisburg suburb of Camp Hill, Pa., held "in response to an exclusionary Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast."

The Rev. Paul Fullmer, a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister from Annville, Penn., has protested that breakfast's emphasis on Christianity, and has organized an interfaith gathering that will feature prayers and readings from state founder William Penn's writings on tolerance.

"What our legislators are doing is not representing us; it's representing their own particular exclusive interests," said Fullmer. "How contrary is that to William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania as a place of religious refuge?"

A spokesperson for the organizer of this year's breakfast in Camp Hill could not be reached immediately for comment.

EXHIBIT 69



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May 1, 2008 at 08:23:20

Evangelicals highjack the National Day of Prayer

by [Abdus Sattar Ghazali](#) Page 1 of 1 page(s)

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"Evangelicals attempt to exclude non-Christians from National Day of Prayer," this Mother Jones headline best reflects the controversy over the National Day of Prayer (NDP) being observed on Thursday, May 1, 2008.

The National Day of Prayer (NDP) was once a symbol of American unity and faith in God that transcended boundaries but in recent years the decades-old tradition has become mired in divisions.



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The holiday began in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked Americans to pray for guidance as it was trying to birth a nation. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of fasting and prayer in 1863. Nearly a century later, Harry Truman made it an annual event, and in 1988, Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May so citizens could join in worship across all religious boundaries.

That changed in the 1990s, when the National Day of Prayer Committee established a task force to help coordinate activities across the country and connected it with Colorado's Focus on the Family. The conservative group, led by prominent evangelical James Dobson, took charge of the day, then insisted that all participants adhere to its "Judeo-Christian" theological tenets. Shirley Dobson, wife of James Dobson is the chairperson of the Task Force since 1991.

The Task force's website says that the National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs.

A Task Force volunteer must be an evangelical Christian who has a personal relationship with Christ. According to the Task force website the applicants must indicate whether their lives reflect a belief statement that begins: "I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God."

Thanks to Dobson, this year's task force volunteers are required to sign pledges, stating: "I commit that National Day Prayer activities I serve with will be conducted solely by Christians while those of differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

Even though prayer day events are sponsored by a private organization, observances receive unofficial government approval through a proclamation by the President and ceremonies held at the White House and in Congress. President George W. Bush's official National Day of Prayer proclamation used the same theme as the Dobson's Task Force "Prayer! America's Strength & Shield." A large number of governors have also issued proclamations adopting the National Day of Prayer Task Force's theme.

This year, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a leading Muslim civil rights group joined Jews On First, in calling on American Muslims and members of other faith communities to contact governors and other elected officials nationwide to ask that any government-sponsored "National Day of Prayer" observances on May 1st be representative of our nation's religious diversity.

There have been several national days of prayer in the U.S. before the day was made official in 1952.

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The Continental Congress issued a day of prayer in 1775 to designate "a time for prayer in forming a new nation". Thomas Jefferson argued however, that although individual religious organizations had the right to designate a day of prayer, the U.S. government should not have that right.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law. It was in 1972 that the National Prayer Committee was formed. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May.

The intention of the National Day of Prayer was always that it would be a day when members of all faiths could pray together in their own way. It would involve Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Aborigines, Zoroastrians, and all others who had a religious faith and wished to participate.

It was meant to encourage Americans of all faiths to pray with one another in whatever way felt best to them. It would be an ecumenical celebration of faith that would draw people together in common religious and spiritual contemplation. However, Dobson has made a point of "excluding Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Buddhists, and even mainline Christians" from the National Day of Prayer.

The United States is generally recognized as being the most religiously diverse nation in the world. Holding National Day of Prayer events which are inclusive of all religions may go a long way towards promoting interfaith understanding.

Unfortunately, what began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines.

Author and journalist. Author of Islamic Pakistan: Illusions & Reality; Islam in the Post-Cold War Era; Islam & Modernism; Islam & Muslims in the Post-9/11 American. Currently working as free lance journalist. Executive Editor of American Muslim Perspective: www.amperspective.com

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rhalfhill

IMPERMISSIBLE ENTANGLING

I agree with Thomas Jefferson. In a society whose Constitution forbids an establishment of religion, the government has no business in proclaiming days of prayer, although, of course, it also has no business in preventing people from praying on whatever days they wish.

But since the Evangelicals have now excluded everybody else, don't the Catholic and the main line Churches outnumber the Evangelicals and can thus muster enough clout to abolish this impermissible entangling of Church and State?

Robert Halfhill

by rhalfhill (3 articles, 0 quicklinks, 0 diaries, 276 comments) on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 6:13:20 PM

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Michael Price

Blasphemy.

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know, God? I'm an atheist but just in case I'd never do anything religious unless it was in accordance with my proper relationship to God, not to the State. Remember what your invisible friend said "I the lord your god am a jealous god."*

by **Michael Price** (0 articles, 0 quicklinks, 0 diaries, 33 comments) on Friday, May 2, 2008 at 5:19:18 AM

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The National Day of Prayer

Filed in [A-Featured](#) , [Politics](#) , [Religion](#) , [Western Religion](#) on May 1, 2008 | [ShareThis](#)

David Domke is Professor of Communication and Head of Journalism at the University of Washington. Kevin Coe is a doctoral candidate in Speech Communication at the University of Illinois. They are authors of the The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Political Weapon in America. To learn more about the book check out their handy website [here](#), to read more posts by them click [here](#). In the post below they consider the effect of our National Day of Prayer.

Today is the National Day of Prayer. In modern American politics, that means one thing: the God strategy will be in full effect.

Since Ronald Reagan's election in 1981, politicians—especially U.S. presidents—have gone to unprecedented lengths to signal their support for those citizens who rely heavily on religious cues to make voting decisions. The National Day of Prayer is a perfect day to send such signals.



Here's what to expect. President Bush will issue a proclamation extolling the virtue of prayer. Most people will pay little attention. They'll go on about their lives, praying or not as they see fit.

A small but politically important cohort, however, will see Bush's proclamation as a crucial show of support for their religious beliefs. And these are the people to whom Bush is speaking.

The targeted audience is organized by the National Day of Prayer Task Force. This organization was first headed by Vonette Bright, wife of Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright, and has been chaired since 1991 by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson. The Brights and the Dobsos are iconic figures among religious conservatives, and their connection to the National Day of Prayer has given the event a decidedly conservative and Christian character.

Consider that those who sign up to volunteer for the National Day of Prayer Task Force have to affirm this statement of faith: "I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God." Volunteers must also pledge that the activities they organize "will be conducted solely by Christians," though "those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

In a more inclusive form, a National Day of Prayer wouldn't be an altogether disagreeable gesture. Many Americans are prayerful people, and presidents have been consistently proclaiming national days of prayer since the 1950s.

But like most aspects of presidents' public religiosity these days, the National Day of Prayer has become a kind of political weapon. It hasn't always been this way.

Presidents since Reagan have been far more eager than their predecessors to issue proclamations celebrating religion. Leaving aside the two standard National Day of Prayer proclamations that presidents have long issued each May, the growth in religiously oriented proclamations before and since Reagan is astounding. In fact, our examination of the more than 6,000 proclamations from Franklin Roosevelt to George W. Bush revealed a more than five-fold increase in the per-term average since 1981.

And this is only one part of a broader trend. Compared to their modern-era predecessors, presidents since Reagan have invoked God and faith much more often, merged God and country with more regularity and greater certitude, and substantially increased their trips to speak to religious audiences (with conservative groups like the National Association of Evangelicals getting a heavy proportion of these visits). They've even upped their references to Christ during Christmastime.

In all cases, the goal has been the same: signal support for people of faith. If goal itself is innocuous, the outcome has been anything but. Presidential religiosity has become narrow and partisan—and people have noticed.

In response to the National Day of Prayer Task Force's hostility to non-Christian volunteers, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State issued a statement saying the event had been "largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda." Meanwhile, Jews on First, another religious watchdog group, is promoting an alternative: the "Inclusive National Day of Prayer."



EXHIBIT 71

NEWS

Diverse gathering marks prayer day
Christian-oriented event leaves some feeling excluded

Friday, May 02, 2008 - 12:08 AM

By ROBIN FARMER
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF
WRITER

State and local government leaders participated in a National Day of Prayer event on the state Capitol grounds yesterday that attracted a diverse crowd of about 100.

But some critics said the annual observance should be more inclusive, pointing out that only Christians spoke during the program. About six weeks ago, a group called Jews on First started an online campaign seeking to broaden the event, which it says limits participation to fundamentalist Christian evangelicals.

"It's great people want to pray for the country," said Don Fruhwald, president of the Central Virginia/Greater Richmond Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. "But it should be a voluntary endeavor that the

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government stays out of."

Fruhwald attended yesterday's event in Richmond. He and several others spoke about their concerns before the program started.

The National Day of Prayer and Meditation was signed into law in 1952 by President Harry S. Truman and assigned the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The National Day of Prayer Task Force is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson. Although the task force is a private group, its observances have received unofficial government approval through proclamations by President Bush and ceremonies held at the White House and in Congress.

In Virginia, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine issued a proclamation rec-ognizing the event.

That the task force requires applicants interested in serving as local coordinators to confirm their commitment to Christ makes sense, said Glen Lutz, Virginia coordinator for the National Day of Prayer.

"We are the Christian emphasis for the National Day of Prayer," said Lutz, a Baptist minister who lives in Richmond. "It doesn't mean that other groups couldn't organize their own event."

The coordinators and speakers for the events must be in sync, he said. "The leadership must know the Lord, or else how can we pray in Jesus' name?"

Speakers during the hour-long program at the state Capitol included House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell, R-Stafford, and Richmond City Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson. The Richmond Police Choir sang several selections.

Howell said he had no comment about whether the observance excluded leaders and clergy from Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Buddhist communities or other faiths.

"Many people don't know how discriminatory this day is," said Rabbi Haim Beliak of Jews on First, which initiated the Web site www.inclusiveprayerday.org. The group's campaign urged people to request that governors issue inclusive proclamations about the observance.

"When I talk to my colleagues, some say they're told these events were only for Christians," Beliak said by phone from Los Angeles.

"The National Day of Prayer and Meditation was intended, as any official government action must be, for people of all religious traditions or none," said Douglas A. Hicks, associate professor of leadership studies and religion at University of Richmond.

"The National Day of Prayer Task Force, which is actually a nongovernmental organization, runs events around the country as if it were the organizer of the day of prayer," he said. To be a part of the organization, a person must be a Christian willing to sign on to "biblical inerrancy particular theological creed."

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EXHIBIT

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"Many well-intentioned public officials, including in Richmond, sign on to participate in these public celebrations without knowing that the sponsoring organization excludes many Christians and all non-Christians," Hicks said.

Kaine's proclamation reads, "Prayer plays a powerful role in the lives of people of all cultures, religions and backgrounds." It also quotes the task force's theme of "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," noting it "comes from the scripture Psalm 28:7, which says, 'The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.'"

That displeases Imad Damaj, president of the Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs.

"I'm surprised he quoted the task force's theme," Damaj said of Kaine. "He lives his faith in a way that unites people and doesn't divide people. This task force is clearly a very divisive task force. It doesn't want to unite all Americans of different faiths."

After the program at the state Capitol, Harriet H. Roberson, an on-air personality at WFTH radio, said it was her first time attending the event. As to the controversy, "We have to start somewhere. Anything that will help us with so much evil in the world is needed."
Contact Robin Farmer at (804) 649-6312 or rfarmer@timesdispatch.com.

Reader Reaction:

Posted May 07, 2008 @ 05:00 PM by aveteran

RE: May 02, 2008 @ 09:41 PM by pashorter: Your Patrick Henry "quote" is a proven fraud. Those words were NEVER uttered by him. Check your sources next time.

Posted May 06, 2008 @ 09:10 PM by Anonymous

I would like to thank reporter Robin Farmer and the Times Dispatch for covering this event and in particular for reporting the untold side of the story, in that it has been taken over by one particular group and become unnecessarily exclusionary and discriminatory. This is unfortunately no longer the national day of prayer, but the national day of christian prayer. Don't believe me, look on the web site. We need to put an end to this bigotry.

Posted May 03, 2008 @ 06:50 AM by Anonymous

My constant, quiet, and non-showy prayer remains that we work together for Peace and Justice -- and disavow the divisive, aggressive, and non Christ-like religion of people like George Bush, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Dick Cheney.

Posted May 02, 2008 @ 08:41 PM by pashorter

I think we would all agree that Patrick Henry was deeply involved with the founding of this country. Patrick Henry said " this country was founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ". I'm glad this "Day of Prayer" is handled as it is, a DAY OF PRAYER, not a day of inrest groups making their political statements. Thanks to Shirley Dobson and all those who work so hard to make this happen.

Posted May 02, 2008 @ 03:33 PM by Anonymous

Correction, please. Our country was not founded on Christianity. To the contrary, in order to free citizens from the bondage of the Church of England, our forebears specifically divided Church and State in our new Nation. Read and learn your history! These men were Christians or Diests, but they intentionally divided religion and government. We're not a theocracy -- but rather a republic. Iran is a theocracy. Don't be such a zealot yourself.

Posted May 02, 2008 @ 01:06 PM by Anonymous

People of all faiths are free in this country to organize their own prayer gatherings. Since our nation was founded on Christian principles and the majority of people in this country are Christians, it's logical that most of the Day of Prayer gatherings would be among Christians. People who complain about Christians excluding people should go to other countries where there is no freedom of religion. Christian principles provide our freedom in the U.S. - stop complaining and be thankful!

Posted May 02, 2008 @ 12:16 PM by Anonymous

My prayer is for those who feel they must exhibit their faith so openly this way -- that their actions, like those of Christ, promote peace and justice. And that there really are actions in people like these -- and not just "holier than thou" talk. What would Jesus do? He'd be working the soup kitchen instead of holding a prayer rally!

Posted May 02, 2008 @ 09:44 AM by Gene

I want to say that I very much appreciate the efforts of those who took the time, energy, and resources to organize a day to pray for our leaders. What could possibly wrong with that? This article seems to be an attempt to search "high and low" to find anyone and everyone who did NOT take the time to organize anything, but felt they had a duty to criticize others. I'm sure that those political leaders who participated did so because they were just plain grateful that someone was willing to pray.

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EXHIBIT 72

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

National Day Of Prayer Showcases Intolerant Religious Right Agenda, Says Americans United

Friday, April 25, 2008

Government Officials Should Not Promote Dobson Prayer Task Force Events, Church-State Watchdog Group Says

Intolerant Religious Right groups are dominating observance of the National Day of Prayer and government officials should refuse to lend them support, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer scheduled for May 1 this year has been largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda.

"In many cases, this event is more about politics than prayer," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's just another excuse for the Religious Right to attack church-state separation."

Many events around the country this year are being coordinated by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a Colorado Springs-based Religious Right organization run by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family Chairman James C. Dobson.

The NDP Task Force's Web site claims it is the "National Day of Prayer Official Web Site," but, in fact, the group has no official status. The Task Force states that its purposes is to "Foster unity within the Christian Church" and "Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage." Non-Christians are usually prohibited from leading or speaking at NDP Task Force events.

The Dobsons require volunteer prayer coordinators to sign a fundamentalist statement of faith that declares that "the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God" and that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation."

In addition, the NDP Task Force Web site promotes "Drive-Thru History," a home-school curriculum produced by pseudo-historian David Barton that promotes the idea that America was founded to be a "Christian nation."

Despite its sectarian character, the NDP Task Force often draws support from elected officials. The Dobsons annually visit the White House for its NDP event, and public officials attend NDP Task Force events held at the U.S. Capitol.

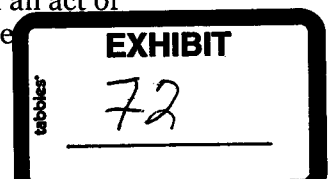
This year, President George W. Bush's official National Day of Prayer proclamation used the same theme as the Dobsons' Task Force "Prayer! America's Strength & Shield." A large number of governors have also issued proclamations adopting the NDP Task Force's theme.

"The National Day of Prayer Task Force doesn't even pretend to acknowledge religious tolerance or our country's great diversity," Lynn said. "It's time for the government to stop working with this group."

Lynn noted that leading Founders such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison opposed government proclamations of days of prayer. They believed such events constitute improper government intrusion into religious matters.

Wrote Jefferson, in a Jan. 23, 1808, letter to the Rev. Samuel Miller, "I do not believe it is for the interest of religion to invite the civil magistrate to direct its exercises, its discipline, or its doctrines; nor of the religious societies that the general government should be invested with the power of affecting any uniformity of time or matter among them.

"Fasting & prayer are religious exercises," observed Jefferson. "The enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the times for the



& the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and this right can never be safer than in their own hands, where the constitution has deposited it.”

Madison, in his “Detached Memoranda,” warned that governmental religious proclamations “seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion.” He warned that there would always be a tendency “to narrow the recommendation to the standard of the predominant sect” and that partisan political considerations would be likely to come into play.

“The last & not the least objection,” observed Madison, “is the liability of the practice to a subserviency to political views; to the scandal of religion, as well as the increase of party animosities.”

Americans United is a religious liberty watchdog group based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1947, the organization educates Americans about the importance of church-state separation in safeguarding religious freedom.

© *Americans United for Separation of Church and State*
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(202) 466-3234 fax (202) 466-2587
americansunited@au.org

EXHIBIT 73

Religion Clause

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof... --US Const., Amend. 1

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Emeritus University of Toledo

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Saturday, March 29, 2008

National Day of Prayer Task Force Criticized For Lack of Inclusiveness

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is excluding Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Buddhists, and even moderate evangelical Christians from taking lead roles in its events, according to a posting Thursday by [Jews On First](#). In a message from Task Force Chair Shirley Dobson, those applying to become coordinators for this year's May 1 activities are asked to fill out an application "to determine your personal and spiritual qualifications for this service". The application itself says that the Task Force is organizing prayer events "conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values." It then asks applicants to indicate they agree with a Statement of Belief that says that the Bible "is the inerrant Word of The Living God" and that the applicant believes "that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation...." A [Policy Statement](#) from the task force says that "People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs."

The Task Force claims only that it is "a privately funded organization whose purpose it is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer." However its website [highlights](#) official Presidential and Gubernatorial Proclamations marking the National Day of Prayer, and points out that the day was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress. [Last year](#) the Task Force Chair played a leading role in the White House National Day of Prayer ceremony, but the White House added other participants to emphasize the inter-religious nature of the event.

Posted by Howard Friedman --PermaLink: 10:39 PM

1 comments:

Barb said...

I'll have to ponder this one.

Mon Mar 31, 11:19:00 AM EDT

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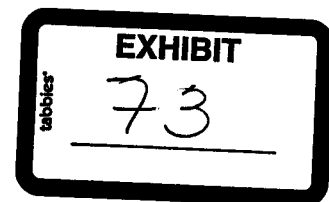


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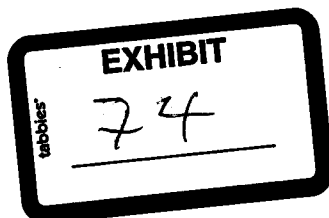
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RELIGION

Last Updated: May 1st, 2008 - 00:48:15

US military coordinated Day of Prayer events with Christian right group

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By Jason Leopold
Online Journal Contributing
Writer

May 1, 2008, 00:22

At least a half-dozen active-duty military officials have been working closely with a task force headed by the far-right fundamentalist Christians planning religious events at military installations around the country to commemorate today's National Day of Prayer.

In working directly with the National Day of Prayer (NDP) Task Force and agreeing to work as event coordinators, these military officials not only violated constitutional provisions governing the separation of church and state but they also signed an oath that states they "believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God" and that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God," according to materials posted on NDP Task Force's website.

Furthermore, the declaration signed by the military officials says that they promise to "ensure a strong, consistent Christian message throughout the nation" and that National Day of Prayer events scheduled to take place at their military installations "will be conducted solely by Christians."

Lisa Crump, manager of the NDP Task Force's local coordinators, said that volunteers who are interested in becoming event coordinators, including members of the military, must complete "a simple application with contact data and statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ is all that's needed to get you on the way to becoming a [National Day of Prayer] Task Force volunteer coordinator."

Mikey Weinstein, the president and founder of the government watchdog group the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) blasted the military's

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[US military coordinated Day of Prayer events with Christian right group](#)

[Civility, ethics and good](#)

participation with the task force, saying it endorses a discriminatory policy.

"It is not likely possible to conceive of a more blatant, heinous and noxious constitutional violation by our United States military than it's filthy, disgusting participation with the so-called National Day of Prayer 'Task Force' and it's incontrovertible fundamentalist Christian supremacy agenda of unconstitutional religious exclusion," Weinstein said. "Further, please immediately note that the Military Religious Freedom Foundation fully intends to include this despicable collusion in our current federal litigation against the Department of Defense as yet another stunning example of a pernicious and pervasive pattern and practice of unconstitutional rape of the precious religious liberties of our honorable and noble United States soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen."

The NDP Task Force, which portrays itself as the official organizer of the National Day of Prayer, is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family's James Dobson who has close ties to President Bush.

Although the task force is not directly tied to any federal agency, it has coordinated many of its activities this year with active-duty military chaplains and other military personnel at bases around the country. That would appear to violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibiting individuals from using the machinery of the state to promote any form of religion. The Constitution protects the rights of the public to worship, or not, as they see fit.

But the military has not been adhering to these strict regulations.

Indeed, two weeks ago, at Fort Carson Army Base in Colorado, the community events office sent out an email to everyone on the base along with a flyer announcing an event scheduled at Fort Carson in observance of National Day of Prayer. The email included a message from Specialist Brian Havens, who closed his note with "In Christ." Havens is identified on the Task force website as an event coordinator, indicating that he signed the Task Force's "Statement of Faith" application and agreed to uphold the NDP Task Force's Christian policies.

According to Chris Rodda, the senior research director for The Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Weinstein tried to persuade one military chaplain to disassociate himself from a Task Force event in Missouri.

Rodda said she and Weinstein were "surprised" to come across the name of Chaplain Kevin L. McGhee of the Missouri National Guard. According to the NDP Task Force website, Maj. McGhee is scheduled to participate in the NDP Task Force prayer rally at

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the Missouri State Capitol.

This is the same Chaplain McGhee who, last year, came to the defense of Chaplain Bob Larsen, when Larsen converted from Christianity to Wicca and applied to be the first Wiccan chaplain in the U.S. Armed Forces. When Larsen's application was denied, and he was removed from the chaplain corps, McGhee, who was Larsen's supervisor at Camp Anaconda in Iraq, said that a "grave injustice" had been done, and that "What happened to Chaplain Larsen -- to be honest, I think it's political. A lot of people think Wiccans are un-American, because they are ignorant about what Wiccans do."

MRFF informed Chaplain McGhee during a conference call last week of the discriminatory nature of the Missouri State Capitol event and the pledge on the part of its organizers to exclude non-Christians and asked him to reconsider his participation. McGhee has not responded to an email sent yesterday from MRFF asking if he still planned to participate.

This is not the first time the military has come under fire for work it has conducted on behalf of Focus on the Family and other Christian fundamentalist organizations.

Last August, the Pentagon's inspector general responded to a complaint filed in 2006 by Weinstein's organization alleging that Defense Department officials violated military regulations by appearing in a video promoting Christian Embassy, a subsidiary of Campus Crusade for Christ.

The inspector general agreed and issued a scathing, 47-page report that was highly critical of senior Army and Air Force personnel for participating in the video while in uniform and on active duty.

The report recommended that Air Force Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, Army Brig. Gen. Bob Caslen, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Maj. Gen. Peter Sutton, and a colonel and lieutenant colonel whose names were redacted in the inspector general's report, "improperly endorsed and participated with a non-Federal entity while in uniform" and the men should be disciplined for misconduct. Caslen was formerly the deputy director for political-military affairs for the *war on terrorism*, directorate for strategic plans and policy, joint staff. He now oversees the 4,200 cadets at the US Military Academy at West Point. Caslen told DOD investigators he agreed to appear in the video upon learning other senior Pentagon officials had been interviewed for the promotional video.

The Army generals who appeared in the video appeared to be speaking on behalf of the military, but they did not obtain prior permission to appear in the video. They defended their actions, according

to the inspector general's report, saying the "Christian Embassy had become a 'quasi-Federal entity,' since the DOD had endorsed the organization to General Officers for over 25 years."

Historically, the National Day of Prayer has been non-denominational. Former President Harry S Truman signed a bill proclaiming National Day of Prayer into law on April 17, 1952, so individuals of all faiths could pray together. In 1988, President Reagan designated the first day of May to be recognized as the National Day of Prayer.

But, for a number of years, the National Day of Prayer has been all about promoting fundamentalist Christianity. Dobson's task force seems determined to turn the half-century old ritual into its own personal recruitment tool by proselytizing to members of the armed forces and the public in hopes of converting people to evangelical Christianity, according to task force documents posted on the group's website.

The theme of today's 57th annual event is, "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," which is based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped.

Weinstein said the events scheduled for today, specifically those planned by active-duty military officials, underscore the growing trend and the influence fundamentalists have inside the armed forces.

"When United States military personnel knowingly engage in deliberately public activities absolutely demanding the prerequisite of a written, official acknowledgement of acceptance and supremacy of one particular religious worldview to the total exclusion of all others, it is not merely an 'issue' or a 'problem,'" Weinstein said in an interview. "Let's call it what it is; a national security threat internally to this country every bit as formidable in magnitude as those external national security threats posed by the Taliban, al Quaida, the insurrectionists and the jihadists. It's as simple and wretched as that."

In addition to the NDP Task Force events being held on military bases, there will be widespread military participation in non-military NDP events. In Washington state, military flyovers are scheduled to take place at the Calvary Chapel South ball field in Kent, according to the task force website, and the Christian radio station, Praise, 106.5 FM, said the Whidbey Island Naval Station will be providing a flyover at the Skagit County event in Mount Vernon.

In order for a military flyover to take place, a form must be filled out and filed with the Pentagon describing the event and, after a review; the proposal is either approved or denied by Pentagon public affairs. The flyovers scheduled for The National Day of Prayer do not appear on the

military's list of eligible flyover events, raising questions about whether the usual application process was completed and approved by the Pentagon.

Additionally, Marine color guards are scheduled to appear at the National Day of Prayer celebration in Bakersfield, Calif., and the Concert of Prayer in Wheeling, West Virginia. The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base Honor Guard is slated to appear at the "Call To The Wall" in Wheatfield, New York. The National Day of Prayer Noon Rally at the Phoenix City Hall features the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard, and the Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard will appear at a service in Patagonia, Arizona.

Becky Armstrong, a spokeswoman for the National Day of Prayer task force, dismissed charges that the task force was discriminating against non-Christians.

"All Americans are free to exercise their First Amendment rights to organize events that observe the National Day of Prayer in a manner that reflects their religious perspective," Armstrong said.

Jason Leopold is the author of "News Junkie," a memoir. Visit www.newsjunkiebook.com for a preview. His new website is [The Public Record](http://ThePublicRecord.com).

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EXHIBIT 75



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Why Madison Would Have Resisted the National Day of Prayer

Friday May 2, 2008

posted by Steve Waldman @10:35am Permalink Email This Add to »

Richard Land recalls the inspiration of hearing President Reagan's prayer day declaration. I have mixed feelings, to be honest, about National Prayer Day. I agree with the spirit: Americans should periodically pause and consider its tremendous blessings and express profound gratitude to God (or if you don't believe God had anything to do with it, at least express thanks to all who have fought for freedom in the past few centuries).

But having spent a couple of years now looking at the Founding Fathers and religion, my views have shifted. I now fear that while public prayer is supposed to ennoble politicians, it may just politicize, and therefore taint, prayer. Instead of uplifting politics, it downgrades religion.

The Founders were divided on this. Washington and Adams both issued prayer proclamations that went considerably farther than what Reagan (and Harry Truman) had done.

But Jefferson and Madison stopped the practice. Jefferson seemed worried about prayer proclamations violating the First Amendment. Madison did, too, but added another argument: it wasn't good for religion. By offering prayer in a political context (including asking for prayers related to specific policy goals) Madison said prayer proclamations had politicized a solemn act "to the scandal of religion as well as the increase of party animosities."

In describing why he resisted prayer proclamations, Madison said, "They seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion," he wrote. If Americans want to band together to pray, he said, they should do so but to bring about such prayer or gathering through the political process was "doubly wrong." Madison reported that he had received many private letters urging him to follow the pattern of Adams and Washington, prompting him to fear that Americans "have lost sight of the quality of all religious sects in the eye of the Constitution."

We see evidence of that today. While Washington's prayer proclamations were non-denominational (as have the statements of modern presidents), the organizers of the National Prayer Day have a very clear evangelical mission. "In accordance with Biblical truth, the National Day of Task Force" seeks to promote freedom of worship, pluralism AND to "Foster unity within the Christian Church: and "Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage."

This likely would have made Madison uncomfortable. On a few occasions – for instance, during the war of 1812 – even he did issue proclamations which, sure enough, were deemed political. When he asked for prayers that God would "animate their patriotism" and "bestow a blessing on their arms," Federalists who opposed the war felt Madison had invoked God in support of an unjustified conflict. But Madison's approach differed from that of Washington and Adams in one

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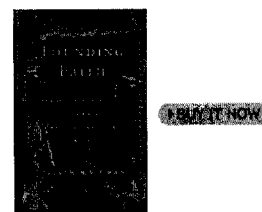
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way. Rather than calling the nation to prayer, he designated particular days on which different religions could devise prayers of their own – if they wished – "according to their own faith and forms."

If we are to have an officially sanctioned National Prayer Day, it should follow in this spirit. An ill-conceived prayer day makes people connect prayer with politics -- instead of with God and gratitude.

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PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Political Transcript Wire; May 3, 2007; 700+ Words ...DELIVERS REMARKS ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, AS RELEASED BY THE... join you for this National Day of Prayer. I'm sorry Laura...camping in one of our national parks. (Laughter...Chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Shirley ...



STATE WILL OBSERVE DAY OF PRAYER BIBLE READING, SPECIAL BREAKFASTS, RALLIES ARE PART OF NATIONAL EVENT.(News) Seattle Post-Intelligencer (Seattle, WA); Apr 30, 1997; Iwasaki, John ; 438 Words ...the problems of the day, not with fists clenched...with hands folded in prayer. The 46th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed...executive director of the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado Springs...readings in Olympia and ...



'NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER' EVENTS POLITICIZE RELIGION, DIVIDE COUNTRY, SAYS AMERICANS UNITED US Fed News Service, Including US State News; Apr 27, 2006; 475 Words ...governmental prayer

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Churches mark National Day of... Dayton Daily News; May 7, 2009

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Groups to observe national... Deseret News (Salt Lake City); May 4, 2006

Prayer, piety and politics... Church & State; Jun 1, 2002

Praying in public: part of... The Christian Science Monitor; Oct 25, 2001

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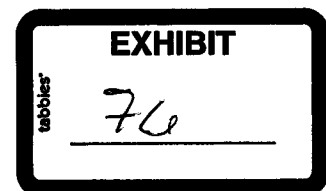
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proclamations...idea of a national religion...to issue prayer proclamations...coordina by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private...the NDP Task Force is distributing...sponsoring the "National Day of ...



National Day of Prayer to be observed locally
Sun-Journal
Lewiston, Me.; Apr 29, 2009; 118
Words ...will observe the National Day of Prayer with a noontime prayer ceremony open to...The theme will be "Prayer ... America's Hope...will be mostly on prayer offered by community...include music. The National Day of Prayer is an annual event... its leaders. The ...



Remarks by the President on the National Day of Prayer.
Business Wire; May 3, 2007; 700+
Words ...for this National Day of Prayer. I'm sorry...one of our national parks. (Laughter...Chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Shirley...important day. And I see...this call to prayer. We're a prayerful nation. I...nation. Each ...



Strength in numbers: Residents gather for National Day of Prayer
Naperville Sun, The (IL); May 7, 2004; Ron Pazola ; 501
Words ...National Day of Prayer service along the...what the power of prayer can do. "I had a...in a candlelight prayer service Thursday...the 53rd annual National Day of Prayer. "Our leaders confront...challenges every day, and our

The benefits of investing in employee health

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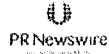
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FINANCIAL TIMES

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society...of
uncertainty," ...



Event Backgrounder
Remarks on the
National Day of
Prayer, Thursday,
May 1, 2003 7:35
a.m. - 8:05 a.m. East
Room.

PR Newswire; May
1, 2003; 317
Words ...the first
official National Day
of Prayer. In 1988,
President...legislation
making the National
Day of Prayer the
first Thursday...34).
On the 2002 National
Day of Prayer more
than two
million...Dobson,
Chair of the National
Day of Prayer ...



PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH
DELIVERS
REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER

Washington
Transcript Service;
May 3, 2007; 700+
Words ...DELIVERS
REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER, AS
RELEASED BY
THE...join you for
this National Day of
Prayer. I'm sorry
Laura...camping in
one of our national
parks.
(Laughter...Chairwoman
of the National Day
of Prayer Task
Force, Shirley ...



AMERICANS MARK
NATIONAL PRAYER
DAY

United Press
International; May 2,
2001; 700+
Words ...resolution
for a National Prayer
Day and President
Harry...House has
signed a prayer day
proclamation.
No...Thursday of
May as the National
Day of Prayer. Prior
to Truman...had
called for a day of
"humiliation, fasting
and prayer." "Last
year, ...



GEORGE W. BUSH
DELIVERS

REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER

Political Transcript
Wire; May 4, 2006;
700+
Words ...DELIVERS
REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER, AS
RELEASED BY...Join
you for the National
Day of Prayer. On
this special day, we
give
thanks...Chairman of
the National Day of
Prayer, Shirley
Dobson...Chairman
of the National Day
of ...



BUSH
COMMEMORATES
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER

US Fed News
Service, Including
US State News; May
3, 2007; 700+
Words ...for this
National Day of
Prayer. I'm
sorry...one of our
national parks.
(Laughter...Chairwoman
of the National Day
of Prayer Task
Force,
Shirley...important
day. And I see...this
call to prayer. We're
a prayerful nation.
I...nation. Each ...



Remarks on the
National Day of
Prayer (Week Ending
Friday, May 5, 2006)
(Speech)

Weekly Compilation
of Presidential
Documents; May 8,
2006; 700+
Words ...you for the
National Day of
Prayer. On this
special day, we
give...chairman of
the National Day of
Prayer,
Shirley...chairman of
the National Day of
Prayer Task Force.
And we
welcome...out of your
day to be here...our
first ...



National Day of
Prayer events move
to ballpark

The Gazette; May 2,
2001; Eric Gorski;
The Gazette ; 602
Words ...of the

National Day of Prayer on Thursday, from...and Jews to an all-day event capped by...construction. The National Day of Prayer was established...the importance of prayer without favoring...Colorado Springs-based National Day of Prayer ...



Remarks by President Bush on the National Day of Prayer.

PR Newswire; May 4, 2006; 700+ Words ...President Bush on the National Day of Prayer: East Room 9:44...join you for the National Day of Prayer. On this special day, we give thanks...Chairman of the National Day of Prayer, Shirley Dobson...Chairman of the National Day of ...



Remarks by President Bush on the National Day of Prayer

U.S. Newswire; May 3, 2007; 700+ Words ...President Bush on the National Day of Prayer: East Room 9:23 A...join you for this National Day of Prayer. I'm sorry Laura...camping in one of our national parks. (Laughter...Chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Shirley ...



**GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED
STATES GEORGE
W. BUSH DELIVERS
REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER**

Washington
Transcript Service;
May 4, 2006; 700+
Words ...DELIVERS
REMARKS ON THE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER, AS
RELEASED BY...join
you for the National
Day of Prayer. On
this special day, we

give
thanks...Chairman of
the National Day of
Prayer, Shirley
Dobson...Chairman
of the National Day
of ...



Some Object to
National Day of
Prayer
Hannity & Colmes
(Fox News Network);
Apr 30, 2007; Sean
Hannity, Alan
Colmes ; 700+
Words ...would have
a National Day of
Prayer. But
nobody...nation's day
of prayer. So there is
this day that's
set...we -- our task
force is the Judeo-
Christi...expression
of the National Day
of Prayer, and we
have...wish. The
National Day of ...



TODAY: National
Day of Prayer being
observed today.
(NEWS)
Star Tribune
(Minneapolis, MN);
May 3, 2001; Collins,
Terry ; 195
Words ...designated
a time of prayer. The
2001 version...states,
including prayer
breakfasts,
Bible...student
gatherings. The
National Day of
Prayer was
established by
Congress in 1952.
Today, Prayer Day
activities are
organized by a task
force and its
network ...



National Day of
Prayer
Getty Images; May 1,
2003; Alex Wong ;
112 Words ...East
Room event on the
National Day of
Prayer May 1, 2003
at the White...52nd
anniversary of the
National Day of
Prayer. This year's
theme is...Dobson,
Chair of the National
Day of Prayer Task
Force, is on the left.
(Photo...



Obama defends,
curtains plans for
National Day of

Prayer
Telegraph - Herald
(Dubuque); May 7,
2009; 275
Words ...for today's
National Day of
Prayer even as
his...mark the day,
and an
atheist...claims the
day
violates...established
the day in 1952
and...May as the day
for presidents...plan
for the day was in
line...from the
National Day of
Prayer Task ...

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National Prayer Day marred by divisions
Whittier Daily News; May 3, 2007; Peggy Fletcher Stack ; 575 Words ...called for a day of fasting and prayer in 1863...when the National Day of Prayer Committee established a task force to help coordinate...ago, the task force, now led...of Latter-day Saints, Seventh-day...service for National Prayer ...



National Day of Prayer Event Is Up in the Air, Obama Has Yet to Announce Whether He Will Continue Tradition of Hosting Conservative Evangelicals, Who Now Have Made Other Plans
The Washington Post; Apr 25, 2009; Adelle M Banks ; 643 Words ...observance, the National Day of Prayer Task Force, headed by...over" the National Day of Prayer. Leaders...inclusive" prayer day. Task force representatives...observ the day according...viewpoints. The National Day of ...



Christian faiths to observe National Day of Prayer today
Deseret News (Salt Lake City); May 4, 2006; Carrie A. Moore Deseret Morning News ; 453 Words ...Christian groups will hold National Day of Prayer observances in cities...Colorado Springs-based National Day of Prayer Task Force, said to his

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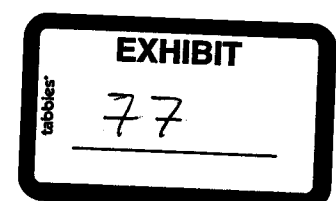
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- [National Prayer Day continues... Church & State; Jun 1, 2006](#)
- [Groups to observe national... Deseret News \(Salt Lake City\); May 4, 2006](#)
- [Prayer, piety and politics... Church & State; Jun 1, 2002](#)
- [Praying in public: part of... The Christian Science Monitor; Oct 25, 2001](#)

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knowledge...their own observances, the National Day of Prayer Task Force is led by ...

Daily Herald

Way to pray? They say 'together' Family Life Church of Elgin hosts city's National Day of Prayer. (Neighbor)(In the spirit)

Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL); Apr 22, 2006; 700+ Words ...04-26-2006: The National Day of Prayer services, which...sponsored by The National Day of Prayer for Elgin Task Force and the Elgin Evangelical...to gather for a National Day of Prayer observance on May...begin to happen. Prayer has long been ...

Newspaper

Citizens Prepare For The National Day Of Prayer

Italian Voice, The; Apr 28, 1994; Alfred Weiss ; 340 Words ...Prepare For The National Day Of Prayer. Thursday...the Annual National Day of Prayer. Americans...concentrate prayers at work...Land." The National Day of Prayer Task Force, a non-sectarian...chairman of the National Day of ...

News Wire

RELIGIOUS RIGHT TAKEOVER OF NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SPARKS DISCORD, SAYS AMERICANS UNITED

US Fed News Service, Including US State News; May 2, 2007; 477 Words ...from being a day to bring...together, the National Day of Prayer has been...State. The National Day of Prayer (NDP) takes...coordinated by the National Day of Prayer Task

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Force, a
private...using the
National Day of ...



**National Day Of
Prayer day event
divides clergy in
Indiana. (Around The
States). (Brief Article)**
Church & State; Jun
1, 2003; 228
Words ...and
presided over a
National Day of
Prayer gathering
outside...affiliated
with the National Day
of Prayer Task
Force, an evangelical
organization...fosters
and hosts prayer-day
activities
throughout...buildings
and places. The
Task Force is ...



**MILLIONS TO
OBSERVE
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER. (MAIN)**
Albany Times Union
(Albany, NY); May 4,
2000; 284
Words ...its 49th
National Day of
Prayer today
in...hour," said
National Day of
Prayer Task Force
chairwoman Shirley
Dobson. Prayers will
be said...Hill. The
task force
has...recognition for
a day of prayer, but
he did...that the ...



**GOV. DEAN ISSUES
STATEMENT ON
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER**
Targeted News
Service; May 5,
2005; 97 Words The
Democratic National
Committee
issued...of the
Democratic National
Committee, Gov.
Howard...statement
regarding The
National Day of
Prayer: "I am
pleased
to...Americans and
the National Day of
Prayer Task Force in
recognizing May 5th,
2005 as a ...



**Bevy of events in the
Springs mark
National Day of
Prayer**
The Gazette; Apr 14,
2007; PAUL ASAY,

THE GAZETTE : 236
Words Last year, the
National Day of
Prayer went
practically...organizing
body, the National
Day of Prayer Task
Force, is in the
city...this year. The
National Day of
Prayer team for
Colorado...will sign a
National Day of
Prayer ...

StarTribune

[A prayer on the
National Day of
Prayer.\(NEWS\)](#)
Star Tribune
(Minneapolis, MN);
May 4, 2001; 73
Words ...Academy in
Brooklyn Park on
Thursday, the annual
National Day of
Prayer. The students
were praying for
President Bush...into
law by President
Harry Truman.
Today, Prayer Day
activities are
organized by the
National Day of
Prayer Task Force.


Magazine

[Jewish Web site
targets national
prayer day](#)
Washington Jewish
Week; Apr 24, 2008;
Leibel, Aaron ; 168
Words ...against the
National Day of
Prayer, saying
it...targeting the
prayer day for
what...1952, the
prayer day is
organized...privately
run task force.
According...site, the
task force
seeks...JewsOnFirst,
the prayer day has
been...endorsing ...

**UNITED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL**

[AMERICANS MARK
NATIONAL PRAYER
DAY](#)
United Press
International; May 2,
2001; 700+
Words ...resolution
for a National Prayer
Day and President
Harry...House has
signed a prayer day
proclamation.
No...Thursday of
May as the National
Day of Prayer. Prior
to Truman...had
called for a day of
"humiliation, fasting
and prayer." "Last

year, ...

Dress Herald

Faithful to gather for National Day of Prayer on Thursday
Portland Press Herald (Maine); Apr 30, 2005; From staff reports ; 329
Words ...gather for National Day of Prayer on Thursday...54th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed...member of the National Day of Prayer Task Force for Biddeford-Sa...Biddeford National Day of Prayer event. The...


Newspaper

54TH NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Press-Telegram Long Beach, CA.; May 6, 2005; SHAWNA
GAMACHE Religion News Service ; 581
Words ...chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and an evangelical...chairman of the National Day of Prayer. Some critics say the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private organization...has given the National Day of ...



Remarks on the National Day of Prayer (Week Ending Friday, May 4, 2007)
(Speech)

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents; May 7, 2007; 700+
Words ...for this National Day of Prayer. I'm sorry...one of our national parks.
[Laughter...chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force,
Shirley...important day. And I see...dais call to prayer. We're a prayerful nation. I...nation. Each ...


Newspaper

National Day of Prayer events move to ballpark
The Gazette; May 2, 2001; Eric Gorski; The Gazette ; 602

Words ...of the
National Day of
Prayer on Thursday,
from...and Jews to
an all-day event
capped
by...construction.
The National Day of
Prayer was
established...the
importance of prayer
without
favoring...Colorado
Springs-based
National Day of
Prayer ...



Newspaper

Strength in numbers;
Residents gather for
National Day of
Prayer
Naperville Sun, The
(IL); May 7, 2004;
Ron Pazola ; 501
Words ...National
Day of Prayer
service along
the...what the power
of prayer can do. "I
had a...in a
candlelight prayer
service
Thursday...the 53rd
annual National Day
of Prayer. "Our
leaders
confront...challenges
every day, and our
society...of
uncertainty," ...



The Virginian-Pilot

BEACH PLANS
NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER
OBSERVANCE
EVENTS (VIRGINIA
BEACH BEACON)
The Virginian Pilot;
May 6, 2004; 514
Words ...observe the
National Day of
Prayer. This is
the...need as much
prayer in our
country...involved
with the National Day
of Prayer Task Force
for 27
years...Barraco said
the National Day of
Prayer is an
opportunity...observance
of the ...



Newspaper

National Day of
Prayer to be
observed locally
Sun-Journal
Lewiston, Me.; Apr
29, 2009; 118
Words ...will observe
the National Day of
Prayer with a
noontime prayer
ceremony open
to...The theme will be

"Prayer ... America's Hope...will be mostly on prayer offered by community...include music. The National Day of Prayer is an annual event...its leaders. The ...

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EXHIBIT 78

INCLUSIVE PRAYER DAY

~~People of Many Faith Traditions Calling For an Inclusive National Day of Prayer~~

NEWS CLIPS ABOUT THE 2008 DAY OF PRAYER

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FACTS AND TALKING POINTS

SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

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ALTERNATIVE INCLUSIVE OBSERVANCES

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2007 REPORT BY JEWSONFIRST.ORG

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Please also see the JewsOnFirst.org 2007 report on the Task Force, here.

How inclusive is the National Day of Prayer?

Some groups are challenging the exclusive nature of Thursday's official events, coordinated by conservative Christians.

By Jane Lampman, The Christian Science Monitor, April 30, 2008

On Thursday, several million Americans will gather in special observances across the country to mark the National Day of Prayer, first inaugurated by Congress in 1952.

Under the energetic sponsorship of a national task force, the events have mushroomed into the thousands in recent years. They are held at houses of worship but also schools, courthouses, city halls, state houses, and at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

This year, however, voices are being raised to challenge the religiously exclusive nature of the task-force effort, which is coordinated by conservative Christians who have encouraged government leaders' involvement in their events but rejected direct participation by other faith leaders.

Jews on First, an online watchdog group on the First Amendment, has initiated a campaign for an "inclusive prayer day" that has attracted the support of interfaith and civil rights groups, Muslim organizations, and various churches, including the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. *Continue.*

State of Belief Radio interviews campaign directors

Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, State of Belief, Air America Radio, April 26, 2008

Inclusive Prayer Day project co-directors Rabbi Haim Dov Bellak and Jane Hunter were interviewed about the campaign and the National Day of Prayer "official" Task Force by Dr. Welton Gaddy, host of State of Belief Radio. Dr. Gaddy is also president of the Interfaith Alliance, a major partner in the campaign and a sponsor of State of Belief.

You can hear the interview as excerpt of the State of Belief program [here](#). Or, if you prefer, you can listen the entire program posted [here](#) with the generous permission of the Interfaith Alliance. Please also visit the website of State of Belief, where you'll find an archive of radio programs and timely information.

Critics say Day of Prayer 'hijacked' by evangelicals

by Adelle M. Banks, Religion News Service, April 23, 2008, posted on the website of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

WASHINGTON -- Is the upcoming National Day of Prayer a day for all Americans -- or just evangelicals?

That's what some critics are charging in advance of the May 1 observances as they call for a more inclusive approach to an event they say has been "hijacked" by conservative Christians.

Jews on First, a 2 1/2-year-old online organization, has questioned the application process for coordinators affiliated with the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

While the task force is a private group, it nonetheless gets an unofficial government seal of approval with an annual proclamation by President Bush and prayer ceremonies held at the White House and on Capitol Hill. *Continue.*

Rabbi: Christian Right hijacks Day of Prayer

Norman Shoaf, Antelope Valley Press (Palmdale, California), May 2, 2008

Lancaster - "There is no faith unless it is interfaith," Rabbi Haim Dov Bellak told a gathering of approximately 60 listeners Thursday evening at the Antelope Valley Interfaith Council National Day of Prayer Service at the Antelope Valley Church at the Center of Light.

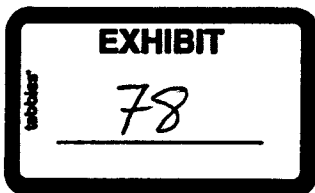
By turns cordial and confrontational, keynote speaker Bellak praised Valley efforts at religious inclusion - and condemned what he called the hijacking of the National Day of Prayer by the Christian Right.

Bellak is a leader of the organization JewsOnFirst, whose proclaimed mission is to protect the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and lobby for an inclusive National Day of Prayer. *Continue.*

New Mexico Public Radio probes inclusiveness of National Day of Prayer event at the State Capitol

National Day of Prayer Task Force officials declare event "official" and exclusively Christian
KSFR-FM, Santa Fe Public Radio, April 30, 2008

In this audio recording, excerpted with the kind permission of KSFR-FM, Rev. Mark Trost, a local coordinator for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, says that the National Day of Prayer is "not a religious event; it's a national event." He also responded to a question about why the group is having a



Christians-only event at the state capitol, saying: "We're having it at the Roundhouse as the official National Day of Prayer organization which is based on the Judeo-Christian principles." Mark Calhoun of the National Day of Prayer Task Force acknowledges that they limit officiating to Christians -- "our views, values and beliefs." He also talks about the group's efforts to obtain proclamations from all the nation's governors. Rabbi Marvin Schwab of Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, speaks of the Task Force's "religious discrimination" and recommends boycotting the events. He says he believes it is inappropriate for the government to support "this kind of very narrow national prayer day" with proclamations. To listen to the 12-minute recording, please click [here](#).

Diverse gathering marks day of prayer

Christian-oriented event leaves some feeling excluded

Robin Farmer, Times-Dispatch (Richmond, Virginia), May 2, 2008

State and local government leaders participated in a National Day of Prayer event on the state Capitol grounds yesterday that attracted a diverse crowd of about 100.

But some critics said the annual observance should be more inclusive, pointing out that only Christians spoke during the program. About six weeks ago, a group called Jews on First started an online campaign seeking to broaden the event, which it says limits participation to fundamentalist Christian evangelicals.

"It's great people want to pray for the country," said Don Fruhwald, president of the Central Virginia/Greater Richmond Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. "But it should be a voluntary endeavor that the government stays out of." Continue.

Day of prayer excludes some, protesters say

Lauren Garrison, New Haven Register (New Haven, Connecticut), May 1, 2008

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to gather today at sites across the country for the National Day of Prayer, as they have for at least the past 50 years.

But this year, a coalition of national and regional organizations as well as several hundred individual religious leaders are fighting to make the day inclusive of people of all faiths.

The effort is being spearheaded by Jews on First, an organization that works to defend the First Amendment. The group's goal for this year is to convince governors not to issue proclamations for the day, which they believe has been "hijacked" by evangelical Christians. Continue.

National Day Of Prayer Showcases Intolerant Religious Right Agenda, Says Americans United

Government Officials Should Not Promote Dobson Prayer Task Force Events, Church-State Watchdog Group Says

News release, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, April 25, 2008

Intolerant Religious Right groups are dominating observance of the National Day of Prayer and government officials should refuse to lend them support, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer scheduled for May 1 this year has been largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda.

"In many cases, this event is more about politics than prayer," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's just another excuse for the Religious Right to attack church-state separation." Continue.

Evangelicals 'Hijacked' Day of Prayer, Critics Accuse

Crosswalk.com, April 28, 2008. (Full text)

The Christian Post reports that non-Christian critics are accusing evangelicals of taking over the upcoming National Day of Prayer, which they complain excludes other religions. "The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" declares Jews on First on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines." The 57th annual National Day of Prayer is on May 1 this year. The theme is: "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield," based on Psalm 28:7.

Jews on First specifically protests against the application to be a NDOP coordinator: "The volunteers who organize the events... are required to pledge that they will only invite Christian clergy to officiate. The volunteers themselves have to ... make a statement of faith that is very narrowly drawn so that only a conservative evangelical Christian would be comfortable doing it," said Jane Hunter, co-director of Jews on First. Continue.

Evangelicals 'Hijacked' Day of Prayer, Critics Accuse

Jennifer Riley, Christian Post, April 25 2008

Non-Christian critics are accusing evangelicals of taking over the upcoming National Day of Prayer, which they complain excludes faithfuls from other religions.

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" declares Jews on First on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us

on religious lines."

Millions of Americans are expected to gather at tens of thousands of prayer events nationwide for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer on May 1. The theme this year is "Prayer! America's Strength and Shield" and is based on Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped." Continue.

Jewish group says the Christian right has appropriated National Day of Prayer

Bruce Tomas, The Dallas Morning News Religion Blog, April 25, 2008

Jews on First, a liberal group created in 2005 "to oppose the growing strength of the Christian right," is complaining that the National Day of Prayer (May 1) has been hijacked by the evangelical right.

"What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines," the group said.

Here's the story by Adelle M. Banks of Religion News Service. Continue.

REPORTS ON INCLUSIVE, ALTERNATIVE NDP OBSERVANCES

INTERFAITH ALLIANCE MAKES PRESENCE FELT AT NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER EVENT.

RON OROZCO, THE FRESNO BEE (FRESNO, CALIFORNIA), MAY 1, 2008

"IT'S NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN EVENT," MAYOR ALAN AUTRY SAID, AND PEOPLE OF SEVERAL FAITHS HAD THEIR CHANCE TO PRAY -- AND TALK -- AT THURSDAY'S NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER EVENT AT FRESNO CITY HALL.

AUTRY, ONE OF THE SPEAKERS AT THE EVENT, INVITED PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE, PARTICULARLY JEWS AND MUSLIMS, TO SPEAK. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THE EVENT'S 16 YEARS THAT THERE WAS AN OPEN MIKE.

KAMAL ABU-SHAMSIEH, DIRECTOR OF THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER IN FRESNO, SPOKE BRIEFLY IN ARABIC BEFORE PRAYING FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS PARTICULARLY ON "THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE MEANS." CONTINUE.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AT FRESNO CITY HALL

MIKE RHODES, SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER, MAY 2, 2008

THE CONSERVATIVE POWER STRUCTURE IN FRESNO ATTEMPTED TO HAVE A "CHRISTIAN ONLY" PRAYER SERVICE AT CITY HALL AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER. THEIR EXCLUSIONARY EVENT WAS THWARTED WHEN MEMBERS OF THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA SHOWED UP HOLDING SIGNS SAYING ONE NATION/MANY FAITHS. SEE AND HEAR WHAT THE MAYOR, CITY MANAGER, POLICE CHIEF, AND KAMAL ABU-SHAMSIEH OF THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER HAD TO SAY IN THE VIDEOS BELOW.

MAYOR AUTRY SAID "I BELIEVE THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IS GOOD, BUT AS MAYOR I CAN NOT LEAVE OFFICE WITHOUT SAYING ONCE AGAIN THAT SEPARATION OF GOD FROM STATE IS NOTHING LESS THAN DISASTROUS." CONTINUE.

TWO DAY OF PRAYER EVENTS HELD IN PLANO

THEODORE KIM, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, MAY 2, 2008

PLANO — A CITY-BACKED MULTICULTURAL GROUP AND A COLLECTION OF MOSTLY CHRISTIAN CLERGY HELD DUELING PRAYER SERVICES HERE TODAY.

THE EVENTS, TO MARK A FEDERALLY-PROCLAIMED NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, FOLLOWED A DISPUTE OVER WHERE EACH GROUP COULD PRAY.

AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROY FRADY OF PLANO'S WILLOWCREEK FELLOWSHIP CHURCH LED A SERVICE WHERE CHRISTIAN CLERGY PRAYED FOR A SERIES OF CITY SERVICES AND ENTITIES RANGING FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT. CONTINUE.

FACES OF PRAYER

**GROUP HOLDS INTERFAITH SERVICE DURING LAWMAKERS' ANNUAL EVENT
FORD TURNER, THE PATRIOT-NEWS (HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA), MAY 7, 2008**

THE QUESTION OF HOW TO PRAY FOR PENNSYLVANIA HAD TWO DIFFERENT ANSWERS YESTERDAY MORNING.

ONE WAS INDOORS, ONE WAS OUTSIDE. ONE WAS CHRISTIAN, ONE INVOLVED VARIOUS FAITHS.

AND ONE, THE OUTDOOR INTERFAITH SERVICE, WAS OFFERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE OTHER, THE ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH PRAYER BREAKFAST ORGANIZED BY STATE LEGISLATORS. CONTINUE.

RELIGIONS PRAY TOGETHER AT 'UNOFFICIAL' SERVICE

JAMES FULLER, DAILY HERALD (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS), MAY 2, 2008

A UNITED NATIONS OF RELIGIONS GATHERED IN NAPERVILLE THURSDAY NIGHT TO JOIN TOGETHER IN A COMMON PURPOSE AND VOICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

THE "UNOFFICIAL" SERVICE WAS CREATED THIS YEAR TO WELCOME RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES BEYOND THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN MESSAGES THAT DOMINATED MANY OTHER DUPAGE COUNTY PRAYER SERVICES THURSDAY.

UNITARIAN, JEWISH, MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, BAHAI, HINDU AND CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL TOOK TURNS DELIVERING AND EXPLAINING PRAYERS WITH A SIMILAR THEME. CONTINUE.

REPORTS & LISTINGS FOR SECTARIAN NDP OBSERVANCES

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: POLITICS OF FAITH

MARY WARNER, THE PATRIOT-NEWS, (HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA), MAY 2, 2008

PRAYERS WERE RAISED THURSDAY FROM THE CAPITOL STEPS IN HARRISBURG FOR A "WALL OF FIRE" PROTECTING U.S. SOLDIERS AND FOR A GOVERNMENT "STRONG ON THE PRINCIPLES WE WERE FOUNDED ON."

WHISPERING "YES, JESUS," THEIR HANDS LIFTED, ABOUT 100 PEOPLE WERE LED IN PRAYERS THAT ALSO SOUGHT GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES, THE MEDIA, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES.

IT WAS THE ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, COORDINATED THIS YEAR IN HARRISBURG BY MARCH FOR JESUS. CONTINUE.

TWO DAY OF PRAYER EVENTS HELD IN PLANO

THEODORE KIM, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, MAY 2, 2008

PLANO — A CITY-BACKED MULTICULTURAL GROUP AND A COLLECTION OF MOSTLY CHRISTIAN CLERGY HELD DUELING PRAYER SERVICES HERE TODAY.

THE EVENTS, TO MARK A FEDERALLY-PROCLAIMED NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, FOLLOWED A DISPUTE OVER WHERE EACH GROUP COULD PRAY.

AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROY FRADY OF PLANO'S WILLOWCREEK FELLOWSHIP CHURCH LED A SERVICE WHERE CHRISTIAN CLERGY PRAYED FOR A SERIES OF CITY SERVICES AND ENTITIES RANGING FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT. CONTINUE.

PRAYER RALLY SET FOR THURSDAY MORNING AT COURTHOUSE

RACHEL SMEDA, COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN (COLUMBIA, MISSOURI), APRIL 30,

2008

COLUMBIA — PRAYER IS EXPECTED TO DRAW HUNDREDS OF COLUMBIANS TO RALLY AT THE BOONE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT 11:30 THURSDAY MORNING. SIMILAR EVENTS CENTERED AROUND PRAYER WILL HAPPEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY TODAY AS PART OF THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

JEFFREY HUFFMAN, OF FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER AND THE COURTHOUSE RALLY COORDINATOR, SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING AREA CHURCHES COME TOGETHER.

COLUMBIA PASTORS AND OTHERS WILL LEAD PRAYER AT THE RALLY, INCLUDING FIRE BATTALION CHIEF JAMES WEAVER AND FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN PAUL STURTZ. COL. JIM COY, A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER, WILL BE LEADING A PRAYER FOR THE TROOPS. CONTINUE.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES PREPARE FOR PRAYER

BRIANNA MURPHEY, EAST TENNESSEAN, A STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, APRIL 21, 2008

WHILE FOLLOWERS OF MANY DIFFERENT FAITHS SUBMIT PRAYERS TO SOME HIGHER POWER, THE MAIN OBSERVERS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AT ETSU WILL BE CHRISTIAN.

WHILE THE FOCUS OF THE EVENT, SCHEDULED FOR NOON TO 1 P.M. THURSDAY AT THE ETSU CARILLON, IS ON CHRISTIAN PRAYER, IT IS OPEN TO PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS, SAID SUSAN ROGERS, A TECHNICAL CLERK IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE WHO ORGANIZED THE CAMPUS OBSERVANCE.

THE FIRST NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OCCURRED IN 1952, AFTER THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY CONGRESS AND SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN. CONTINUE.

COMMUNITY TO GATHER FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BY LINDA ANDRADE RODRIGUES, STANDARD-TIMES (MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH COAST), APRIL 26, 2008

IN RECOGNITION THAT PRAYER HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY, SOUTHCOAST RESIDENTS WILL GATHER THURSDAY AT TOWN HALLS, ON CAMPUS AND IN A PRISON CHAPEL TO EXERCISE THEIR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BY GATHERING PUBLICLY TO WORSHIP AND PRAY FOR OUR LAND. CONTINUE.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST SPONSORED

RENNSELAER REPUBLICAN (RENNSELAER, INDIANA), APRIL 22, 2008

JASPER COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES WILL BE HOSTING, FOR THE THIRD YEAR, A BREAKFAST AND PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER. AT 7:30 A.M. MAY 1 A FREE BREAKFAST WILL BE OFFERED AT A SPECIAL MORNING PROGRAM DESIGNATED TO HONOR THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

A BREAKFAST OF PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, BISCUITS AND GRAVY, JUICE AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED FROM 7:30 TO 8:15 A.M. MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY "LESLIE CALLAWAY AND ROBIN SPITTERS" BEGINNING AT 7:30 A.M. SOLOIST, KATHY BLAHNIK WILL ALSO BE SHARING SONG SELECTIONS DURING THE PROGRAM. CONTINUE.

LOCAL EVENTS WILL MARK NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BY TOM LAVIS, TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT (JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA), APRIL 25, 2008

INSTEAD OF THE TYPICAL LINEUP OF GUEST SPEAKERS, ORGANIZERS OF THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ARE CALLING UPON THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER FOR A RELAXED GATHERING TO COMMUNE WITH GOD.

THE HOUR-LONG EVENT WILL BEGIN AT NOON THURSDAY NEAR THE CENTRAL PARK GAZEBO IN DOWNTOWN JOHNSTOWN.

THE THEME IS "PRAYER! AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND SHIELD" AND IS BASED ON PSALM 28:7, WHICH STATES: "THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM AND I AM HELPED." CONTINUE.

COLLECTIVE PRAYER IN STADIUMS AND CITY HALLS

BY TIM TOWNSEND, ST. LOUIS DISPATCH, APRIL 26, 2008

ORGANIZED, COLLECTIVE PRAYER HAS BECOME POPULAR IN RECENT YEARS, AND IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY, SOME ST. LOUIS CHRISTIANS WILL TAKE PART IN TWO LARGE PRAYER EVENTS.

THE FIRST IS THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE THURSDAY - MOSTLY AROUND CITY HALL FLAGPOLES - ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY, WAS CREATED IN 1952 BY THE U.S. CONGRESS AND SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE WEBSITE.

ITS MISSION IS "MOBILIZING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TO INTERCEDE FOR AMERICA AND ITS LEADERSHIP IN THE SEVEN CENTERS OF POWER: GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, MEDIA, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, CHURCH AND FAMILY."

THE GATEWAY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ORGANIZERS HAVE PLANNED SEVERAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA. MIDDAY EVENTS THURSDAY WILL BE HELD IN THE ST. LOUIS CITY HALL ROTUNDA, THE ST. CHARLES OLD COURT HOUSE, ARNOLD CITY HALL AND 28 LOCATIONS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY. THE ORGANIZERS ALSO PLANNED REGIONAL EVENTS THURSDAY EVENING, INCLUDING WORSHIP AND PRAYER UNDER THE ARCH. CONTINUE.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS THURSDAY

BY RICHARD VARA, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, APRIL 25, 2008

SUZETTE CALDWELL EXPECTS MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE TO GATHER DOWNTOWN THURSDAY AT JONES PLAZA TO SING, PRAY AND - MAYBE - DANCE.

SIMILAR GATHERINGS WILL BE HELD IN OTHER CITIES AND CHURCHES MARKING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

"I WHOLEHEARTEDLY EXPECT HOUSTON TO BENEFIT FROM THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON COMING TO PRAY IN A UNIFIED FASHION," SAID CALDWELL, HEAD OF THE KINGDOM BUILDERS PRAYER INSTITUTE, A NONPROFIT GROUP DEDICATED TO PRAYING. "I THINK WE WILL SEE RESULTS IN THE DAYS, WEEKS AND YEARS TO COME." CONTINUE.

CHURCHES HOSTING EVENTS FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BY CHRISTOPHER ORTIZ, THE GREELEY TRIBUNE (COLORADO), APRIL 26, 2008

GREELEY CHURCH GROUPS WILL HOST A SERIES OF EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ON THURSDAY.

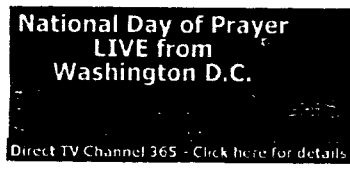
THIS YEAR, THE FOCUS OF PRAYER WILL BE ON SEVEN POINTS OF INFLUENCE IN AMERICA: GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, MEDIA, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, CHURCH AND FAMILY. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "PRAYER, AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND SHIELD" FROM PSALM 28:7, WHICH STATES: "THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM AND I AM HELPED."

STARTING OFF, PEOPLE OF ALL CHRISTIAN FAITHS ARE INVITED FOR AN OBSERVANCE FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AT THE WELD COUNTY CENTENNIAL CENTER PLAZA, AT THE CORNER OF 9TH AVENUE AND 9TH STREET. CONTINUE.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY ADVERTISEMENT FOR WASHINGTON, DC EVENT

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY EMAIL RECEIVED ON APRIL 24, 2008



THE FOCUS ON THE FAMILY EMAIL STATES: "THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS CELEBRATING 57 YEARS, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE FROM OUR NATIONS CAPITOL ON MAY 1, 2008. AS A PROUD MEDIA PARTNER OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE, GOD TV WILL AIR THE PROGRAM LIVE IN ITS ENTIRETY ON DIRECTV, CHANNEL 365. THIS SPECIAL EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON AND CONCLUDE AT 3:00 P.M. (EASTERN)."

THE EMAIL LISTS AS SPEAKERS FOCUS ON THE FAMILY HEAD DR. JAMES DOBSON, NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE CHAIR SHIRLEY DOBSON, SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZA RICE ("PENDING") AND OTHERS. PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE THE AD SAVED AS A PDF DOCUMENT.

TASK FORCE HONORARY CHAIR ATTACKED FROM RIGHT OVER "INCLUSIVE" PRAYER OMITTING MENTION OF JESUS

SUMMARY BY JEWSONFIRST.ORG, APRIL 25, 2008

ON APRIL 24 CHRISTIAN TALK SHOW HOST INGRID SCHLUETER ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT DR. RAVI ZACHARIAS, "THE 2008 HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" (SO DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE) HAD POSTED A PRAYER LACKING REFERENCE TO JESUS ON THE "OFFICIAL NDP WEBSITE." SCHLUETER WROTE THAT THE TASK FORCE HAD TOLD HER THAT THE OMISSION WAS TO AVOID OFFENDING JEWS. SHE TERMED IT A "BETRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST."

SINCE HER POSTING, SCHLUETER HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THE ISSUE ON HER BLOG. SHE HAS ALSO RESPONDED TO A MOTHER JONES BLOG POSTING ABOUT THE TASK FORCE AND HER ATTACK ON ZACHARIAS.

ASHAMED OF JESUS AT THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

NEWS RELEASE, INGRID SCHLUETER, CROSSTALK RADIO TALK SHOW, VCY AMERICA RADIO NETWORK VIA CHRISTIAN NEWSWIRE, APRIL 24, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY, APRIL 24 /CHRISTIAN NEWSWIRE/ -- THE 2008 HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, DR. RAVI ZACHARIAS, IS REFUSING TO PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS PRAYER POSTED ON THE OFFICIAL NDP WEBSITE. DR. ZACHARIAS' PRAYER CAN BE READ HERE. A RECEPTIONIST WITH THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN COLORADO SPRINGS STATED THAT THE HONORARY CHAIRMAN'S PRAYER DOES NOT INCLUDE THE NAME OF JESUS SO AS NOT TO OFFEND THE JEWISH PARTICIPANTS IN THE EVENT, AND THAT OTHERS ARE FREE TO PRAY IN JESUS NAME IF THEY DESIRE. CONTRAST THAT BETRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE FIRST MARTYR, THE APOSTLE STEPHEN, WHO DIED IN A HAIL OF STONES FOR HIS FEARLESS PREACHING OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED TO THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF HIS DAY.

BANNING JESUS: WHAT A "JUDEO-CHRISTIAN" PRAYER SERVICE LOOKS LIKE

INGRID SCHLUETER, SLICE OF LAODICEA BLOG, APRIL 26 AND EARLIER 2008

I RECEIVED THIS EMAIL FROM A READER THIS MORNING. IF WE TRULY LOVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THEIR SOULS, WE CAN NEVER PUT JESUS AWAY IN THE CLOSET TO APPEASE THEM. JESUS SAID THAT HE ALONE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NOBODY CAN COME TO THE FATHER, EXCEPT THROUGH HIM. HERE'S THE EMAIL.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER. I HAVE EMAILED RAVI'S MINISTRY INFORMING THEM

HOW FAR WE HAVE FALLEN IF WE WILL NOW DENY OUR SAVIOR JESUS IN FRONT OF MEN. CONTINUE.

FROM THE WEBSITE OF THE NDP TASK FORCE

WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A COORDINATOR

A SIMPLE APPLICATION WITH CONTACT DATA AND STATEMENT OF FAITH, CONFIRMING YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST IS ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO GET YOU ON THE WAY TO BECOMING A NDP TASK FORCE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE COORDINATORS

OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT ON PARTICIPATION OF "NON-JUDEO-CHRISTIAN" GROUPS IN THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE WAS A CREATION OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER COMMITTEE FOR THE EXPRESSED PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING AND PROMOTING PRAYER OBSERVANCES CONFORMING TO A JUDEO-CHRISTIAN SYSTEM OF VALUES. PEOPLE WITH OTHER THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWS ARE, OF COURSE, FREE TO ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN BELIEFS. THIS DIVERSITY IS WHAT CONGRESS INTENDED WHEN IT DESIGNATED THE DAY OF PRAYER, NOT THAT EVERY FAITH AND CREED WOULD BE HOMOGENIZED, BUT THAT ALL WHO SOUGHT TO PRAY FOR THIS NATION WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO IN ANY WAY DEEMED APPROPRIATE. IT IS THAT BROAD INVITATION TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT LED, IN OUR CASE, TO THE CREATION OF THE TASK FORCE AND THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT IS BASED. ABOUT THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE

HOW TO ADOPT-A-LEADER

IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO GOVERN US. HERE'S SOME WAYS TO ADOPT-A-LEADER (A KIT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM OUR STORE).

FIRST, CHOOSE A LEADER GOD LAYS ON YOUR HEART. YOU MAY WATCH YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER OR NEWS ON TELEVISION OR LOOK AT THE SITES BELOW. ASK THE LORD'S DIRECTION IN CHOOSING A LEADER. SOME PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR ARE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POLICE OFFICERS, TEACHERS, FIREFIGHTERS, AND MILITARY PERSONAL.

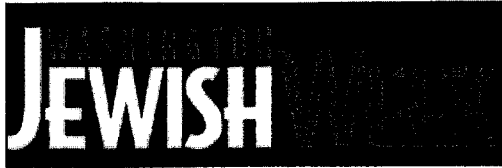
HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES FOR FINDING GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO PRAY FOR: ADOPT A LEADER (ON THE SCHOOLS PAGE)

DRIVE THRU HISTORY

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HISTORIAN DAVID BARTON AND COLDWATER MEDIA, IS PROUD TO PRESENT DRIVE THRU HISTORY AMERICA, A NEW, CUTTING-EDGE, MULTI-MEDIA CURRICULUM THAT TEACHES THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION FROM A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW. DISCOVER THE CHARACTER, FAITH, EXPERIENCES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICA'S FOUNDERS AS THEY DEVELOPED THIS GREAT COUNTRY WHERE WE CAN WORSHIP, WORK, TRAVEL, AND LIVE IN FREEDOM! IN THIS ADVENTURE-FILLED TEACHING SERIES, YOU'LL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE AND VIRGINIA TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, ABIGAIL ADAMS, BENJAMIN BANNEKER, AND MORE. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE SCHOOLS, MAY 3, 3007

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Obama urged to make Day of Prayer more inclusive

by Adam Kredon

Staff Writer

The country's National Day of Prayer has been hijacked by Christian evangelicals who pervert the event for sectarian purposes, according to an interfaith task force comprised of Christians and Jews.

To prevent that from occurring during this year's May 7 celebration, the Interfaith Alliance and Jews on First, a First Amendment defense group, last week sent a letter to President Barack Obama demanding that he issue a presidential proclamation to help open the event to "believers of all religions, as well as those who profess no religion," according to the group's letter.

The coalition claims that "several years ago, the National Day of Prayer was taken over by a group of religious exclusivists led by Shirley Dobson of Focus on the Family," according to the group's letter.

That group, the National Day of Prayer Task Force, funded and run by Dobson, has "totally co-opted" the holiday, Rev. Welton Gaddy, the president of the Interfaith Alliance, said in an interview.

Because the task force labels its Web site as the "official" National Day of Prayer domain, Gaddy believes that it creates a false impression that its celebrations are nationally sponsored and government-endorsed.

Established by President Harry Truman in 1952, the National Day of Prayer takes place on the first Thursday in May and asks that all Americans join in prayer or meditate in their own way.

Beginning in 2001, the evangelical Task Force gained national prominence as former President George W. Bush's go-to group for the holiday. Both Dobson and her husband, James, who founded Focus on the Family, have been invited to exclusive White House events and seated close to the Bush family.

Moreover, says Jews on First's Hunter, the task force could be violating the separation of church and state by requiring coordinators of its events -- for which local and federal officials often issue proclamations -- to sign a "statement of belief" that includes language such as, "I believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles."

"This clearly aligns a government-sponsored event with a particular Christian denomination," the group writes in its letter to Obama.

Yet, the Task Force, a registered tax-exempt, nonprofit group, denies that it intentionally misleads government officials and celebrants, and says the statement of belief is merely an effort to be transparent.

While "governors from many states, countless mayors and local officials are often invited to participate in events" organized by the task force, Brian Toon, the group's vice chair, said in an e-mail statement via the group's communication's manager. that the group does not "claim to be the official government sanctioned organizers" for the holiday.

Regarding the statement of belief, Toon said it is a way to ensure that those involved are aware of the group's religious orientation. "We have a statement so it is obvious to potential volunteer coordinators who we are; so there are no misconceptions as to whom they are aligning themselves with," Toon said.

The Task Force, he added, "has chosen to conduct events that reflect its Judeo-Christian perspective on prayer," but "we don't exclude [other faiths] from attending, nor

Dr. Alex Eisen,
Board Certified
Pediatrician/Mohel



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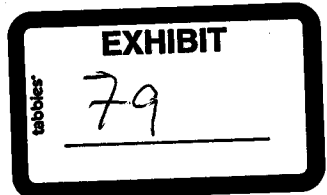
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do we discourage other faiths from holding their own events on this day."

The White House did not respond to an inquiry by press time on Tuesday.

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Baptist group not keen on government-sponsored National Day of Prayer



10:36 AM Wed, May 06, 2009 | Permalink | Yahoo! Buzz
Sam Hodges, Reporter | Blog | E-mail | News tips

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty is all for prayer, but says the government should stay out of the way. Here's a press release, timed to tomorrow's National Day of Prayer:

Baptist group says National Day of Prayer is misguided and unnecessary Day of prayer more appropriately called for by pastors, rabbis and imams

WASHINGTON -- Congress' official designation and the President's predictable proclamation of a National Day of prayer is misguided and unnecessary, says a Washington, D.C.-based church-state organization.

J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, said "it is not the government's job to tell the American people what, where or when to pray or even if they should pray."

In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution, signed by President Harry Truman, setting aside one day a year for prayer. Since then, presidents have proclaimed a day for prayer annually observed on the first Thursday of May. The administration has announced President Obama will sign a proclamation but will not hold an event this year.

"There is nothing wrong with the American people getting together to pray on a designated day, even public officials," Walker said. "In fact every day should be a day of national prayer. President Obama, like others before him, welcomes prayers for our country and its leadership. He has expressed his personal appreciation for such support, and people of faith feel called to pray for our country."

"The problem with the National Day of Prayer is that it is an official act of the government urging citizens to engage in a religious exercise," Walker said.

Walker said people of faith do not require the government's stamp of approval for their religious practices.

"A day of prayer is more appropriately called for by pastors, rabbis and imams among us -- not civil magistrates, Congress, or even an American president."

--30--

Comments

Posted by Alan @ 10:53 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

amen! The whole idea of a government sponsored prayer service creeps me out. Our forefathers and mothers who lived and died for seperation of church and state are flipping in ther graves.

report as abusive

Posted by JC @ 11:25 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

There is no separation of church and state, our fore-fathers publicly and privately proclaimed and quoted from the Scriptures and prayer was and I believe still is held each morning to open up Congress....what America needs is more prayer, from the head to the tail - God will not be mocked, what a nations sows it will reap and judgment is already upon America and we have no-one to blame but ourselves.

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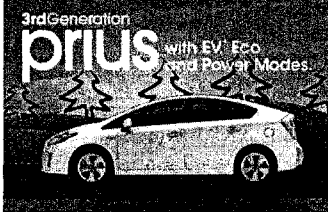
Posted by Blake @ 11:40 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

I don't think anyone has to worry about Obama going on a bible crusade anytime soon. I don't understand why religious groups are all of a sudden for seperation. Its great, don't get me wrong. It just seems ingenuine on the part of religious groups.

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Texas Faith: Talking politics, religion and culture with state religious leaders
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Web Site of the Week: www.mychurch.org

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80

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I'm wondering if inaction would've had a bigger backlash.

Posted by **Mike J** @ 11:48 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

I think America would do a whole lot better if more religious leaders had such a sensible attitude. Attempts in recent decades by the religious right to impose one or the other form of Christianity on the rest of the nation have been tearing this country apart.

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Posted by **basementfrog** @ 11:57 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

I really don't mind the idea of a National Day of Prayer being officially established where everyone is given a day off and all stores and shops are closed. Only churches would be open -- all churches. But keep it out of the White House.

A little thing called separation of church and state. And let's keep it that way.

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Posted by **basementfrog** @ 11:58 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

The Daily Frog says,

I really don't mind the idea of a National Day of Prayer being officially established where everyone is given a day off and all stores and shops are closed. Only churches would be open -- all churches. But keep it out of the White House.

A little thing called separation of church and state. And let's keep it that way.

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Posted by **Subhash Durlabhji** @ 12:01 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Nothing wrong with the government urging citizens to make room for reflection and solitude in their daily routine, but a "day" for prayer is quite the wrong strategy -- like "Mother's Day", it signals that you can ignore your Mom for the whole year as long as you remember her on her "day".

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Posted by **James Davis** @ 12:04 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

JC, you're embarrassingly wrong. Regardless of our forefathers' individual religious affiliations (or lack thereof), they made it a point to NOT repeat old Europe's mistake of intertwining church and state. The very phrase "separation of church and state" was coined by Thomas Jefferson, when explaining the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment. This phrase also appears in several states' constitutions. You might also read Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, while you're at it. You'll find that our Constitution mentions religion only when mandating that church and state stay out of each others business.

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Posted by **randy** @ 12:06 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

We are being forced to accept sin and immorality yet offended by a prayer. We need separation of bedroom and state. What one does in the bedroom is purely and simply choice. One can choose not to have sex regardless of disposition or "orientation". Sexual orientation refers to ones preference in the bedroom and is not the subject of polite conversation or spoken about on the job. It should not be spoken about in politics and certainly not considered some kind of civil right.

How does one test for "gay". Does the State take someone's word for it when they claim to be disabled? A blood test can determine male or female. DNA can determine race. Why should someone who claims to be something have the right to change thousands of years of moral beliefs and traditions.

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Posted by **alan jacobs** @ 12:08 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Many countries in the middle east are very religious and are led in prayer by their leaders every day : Afganistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan. Their devotion to God is so strong that the word of God has become the basis of civil laws, and justice. Family values are so strong that women stay at home with the family and remain modestly dressed. And their evangelism is INDEED spreading the word like a mighty sword or rocket propelled grenade. Yes, that's where Dubya headed us. God is Great !

p.s. Please read the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi if you REALLY want to understand God's message.

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Posted by **JP** @ 12:13 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

"Posted by JC @ 11:25 AM Wed, May 06, 2009

There is no separation of church and state, our fore-fathers publicly and privately proclaimed and quoted from the Scriptures and prayer was and I believe still is held each morning to open up Congress....what America needs is more prayer, from the head to the tail - God will not be mocked, what a nations sows it will reap and judgment is already upon America and we have no-one to blame but ourselves."

Another self-contradicting shibboleth from a supposed pro-American Christian, who stands firmly against everything that both the US Constitution and the teachings of Jesus Christ stood for: democratic government by consent of the governed on the one hand; unconditional love and forgiveness through the grace of Jesus Christ on the other.

I, as a devout liberal and a devout Christian, respect and defend your right to say, believe and do as you wish, so long as you understand and accept the responsibility of both your citizenship and your theology. We all reap as we sow; sinners and saints, liberals and conservatives. I do not fear my final judgement. Yours is ultimately up to you.

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Posted by **Don** @ 12:17 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Blake, the Baptist Joint Committee has been speaking out against government sponsored prayers like the National Day for more than 70 years. Sadly, the efforts of conservative Baptists since 1980 have made you think that this is a new opposition or marks a shift in thinking. Nothing could be further from the truth! Separation is the true Baptist heritage.

report as abusive

Posted by **Janet Gari** @ 12:23 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Yes, President Obama, please further observe the "Separation of Church and State" and, even though you're not pushing for adherence to a national day of prayer, do not carry on a proclamation of such. It is STILL not the business of the government.

report as abusive

Posted by **SurfDaNet** @ 12:32 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

JC said, "...our fore-fathers publicly and privately proclaimed and quoted from the Scriptures"

if true, the absence of such proclamations in the constitution speaks volumes to their intent.

JC continued, "and prayer was and I believe still is held each morning to open up Congress"

Yes, they do, and they include Hindu prayer, Muslim prayer, Buddhist prayer... I don't know if Wicca has yet been invited to open congress, but it has opened lower levels of government. Hardly a Christian thing to do.

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Posted by **alan jacobs, Green Bay WI** @ 12:35 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Under Dubya, religion in the US become tax exempt multiBillion dollar income for the likes of James Dobson, Fallwell, etc. I challenge ALL of the evangelical megachurch preachers to sell their TV studios, radio stations, jets, and mansions and give the money to the poor like Christ did. God is the very basis of our existence but DVDs, Christian talk shows, and merchandise sales are corrupting the message for personal gain. Jesus chased the money changers from the temple.

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Posted by **Tamaso Fan** @ 12:43 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Good job to the Baptists. (You know, I think I'm officially baptist because I was baptised in a baptist church).

Good job Obama. Good job to everybody that has a healthy understanding of the separation of church and state. It is better for the state and it is better for the church.

"America! [Heck] yeah!!!!"

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Posted by **TomTom** @ 12:55 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

randy suggests, "Sexual orientation refers to ones preference in the bedroom and is not the subject of polite conversation or spoken about on the job. It should not be spoken about in politics and certainly not considered some kind of civil right."

So should we remove any language that reveals orientation? You can no longer use the words husband or wife as these would reveal your orientation. you can only use "significant other" or "spouse". We should also remove all references to children as their presences implies an act of persons of a specific orientation.

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Posted by **Republican Jesus** @ 12:58 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

"Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and render unto the Lord what is the Lord's, and render the separation of church and state invalid through a persistent campaign of revisionist history."

report as abusive

Posted by **/ @** 1:01 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

As a liberal atheist, I'm disappointed with Obama here. He has a great opportunity to demonstrate how to be religious without being small-minded hateful bigots, like all the religious and pseudo-religious leaders we see in the media. He should use this day to strengthen peaceful cooperation between religions and strengthen the separation of church and state at the same time.

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Posted by **RelicMM** @ 1:27 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

If you separate the church from the state, you remove moral values from law. The result has never been more apparent than in our current national government. Life itself is no longer a viable moral entity. Don't ask God to bless America. Ask God to forgive America for genocide, the ultimate evil against

creation. [report as abusive](#)

Posted by **Republican Moses** @ 1:38 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

"Thou shalt not kill, meaning thou shalt not abort fetuses. Thou shalt go ahead and kill each other in thy cities with thy assault rifles which I have given to you, by my strong right arm. Thou shalt go ahead and kill tens of thousands of civilians, including women and children, in thy wars against foreign lands to secure power and needed resources for thy economy. But babies - no sir."

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Posted by **Claire** @ 1:38 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

* Many countries in the middle east are very religious and are led in prayer by their leaders every day...etc. *

Well, you might think that compulsory attendance for religious ceremonies are cool, as well as everything else you mentioned, but to be honest, most middle eastern societies operate on a system that can be summed up like this..."Everything not forbidden is compulsory"

Nearly everything that is fun or pleasurable, from petting a dog or allowing the breeze to kiss a woman's bare cheek, or listening to music, is considered forbidden in one or another M.E. countries by Islamic law

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Posted by **Tamaso Fan** @ 2:27 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Christians,

If you search the New Testament you will not find a good example of mixing church and state. Nor will you find anything within context that suggests it.

If you look throughout church history you will see that the church was the most vital, strong, living, and sincere during times of persecution. Mixing church and state kills the vitality of the church, and imposes unwanted viewpoints on the rest of us. It is easy to see how the mixture of church and state can lead to situations described as the church in Laodicea in the book of Revelation, or the Pharisees... (and perhaps even Sadducees).

The church should focus on separating the tares from the wheat, rather than trying to force everyone else to be tares. The church should render unto Caesar what is Caesars and render unto God what is God's. The church should hate their father and mother, and focus their attention on the image of the bronze serpent, the likeness of Christ. The church should not be fashioned according to this age. The blood of Christ, which simultaneously fulfilled the law and abolished the law, established that the laws are for the lawless. Your Christ is such a salvation to you... to the rest of us, it is nonsense. (Read the Bible before you disagree with anything in this paragraph)

Let those of us who choose to remain in secular society, who are lawless, with blame, with spot, and with wrinkle live our short lives before suffering eternal hell as we wish. Combining church and state will do nothing but force secular society to act like Christians should act who have been born-again of God the almighty. Why force us to act as if we have the life of God? Can't you just do so and let the rest of us live normal lives?

I wish to live my life as I choose. I wish to be able to think and choose my morality in a logical way. Ayn Rand, Nietzsche, and Bertrand Russell each give very good ideas of morality that do not include believing that there is a devil in hell and a man in the sky who wants to forgive me for my "sins". I want the separation of church and state for my own individual liberty as well as I do for yours.

Again, look at history for what happens when there is no separation from church and state. You had Constantine's "baptism by the sword" and Protestants getting persecuted by the Catholics in power. No theocracy has ever been a peaceful government, and it has not fared well for the Christian church.

Let me say one more time, the separation of church and state is best for the church, and it is best for the rest of us.

[report as abusive](#)

Posted by **Rod Wilson** @ 3:15 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

I hear people saying the the church needs to back off, when actuality it's government that needs to back off. They want to run and ruin this country. From the poor to the wealthy and from big business to small, they want to control everything and tax us to death.

Separation of Church and State was to keep the state out of the Church, not the church out of the state. Our currency and the Supreme Court of the United States have "God Bless America" written all around them, additionally 95% of our courts have the Ten Commandments displayed for all to see. And that's how our fore-fathers wanted it. Christianity in the Country is nothing new. So if it bothers you that much, then go to a country that is anti-Christian...good luck.

[report as abusive](#)

Posted by **steve** @ 3:18 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

JC's comment is of course, patently untrue. Just in case anyone wasn't paying attention in junior high history class, many of our forefathers were christians and many were free-thinkers or deists or wacky 18th century amalgams that none of us today would recognize as orthodox in any way.

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Posted by **steve** @ 3:20 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

JC's comment is of course, patently untrue. Just in case anyone wasn't paying attention in junior high history class, many of our forefathers were christians

and many were free-thinkers or deists or wacky 18th century amalgams that none of us today would recognize as orthodox in any way.

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Posted by **Do you like fish stix?** @ 3:28 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Rod:

The country wasn't founded as a "Christian country." That's simply untrue. If young America took on a Christian hue it was because most Europeans who came here were Christians. But it is undeniable that the founding documents protect us against any religion mandated by the state, regardless of the type. Thank God for that, especially these days! Please read the constitution, the declaration, and the writings of Thomas Jefferson, and throw away the revisionist crap that you have obviously been fed, given your outlandish understanding of American politics and governance.

The other thing is this: "absolute power corrupts absolutely," to repeat a famous quote. Why do you Christians want earthly power so much, huh? It's chilling. Why don't you instead go about the business of your supposed Lord, feeding the hungry and taking care of the elderly and the sick, rather than spending all your time and energy trying to figure out how to put the government in your pocket? When you do that, it makes you look like a bunch of big, fat hypocrites to the rest of the world, and then you have no impact whatsoever on the world you are supposedly there to help "save," not Christianize through governmental force.

Finally, do you like fish stix?

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Posted by **Tamaso Fan** @ 3:31 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

I like fish sticks!

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Posted by **Rod Wilson** @ 4:35 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

As person and as Christian, I don't want "earthly powers". I just enjoy the freedoms that we have living in the USA and I don't want government controlling my life and taxing me to submit to them. Also I find it interesting that Obama doesn't invite praying Christians to the White House, but he invites Gay "families". I love everyone, including you and gays, but I'm not going to honor there gay lifestyle when it hurts our country and will ultimately hurt them.

[report as abusive](#)

Posted by **C. Copeland** @ 5:28 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Maybe these Christians feel this way because *they've actually read their Bibles*?

Matthew 6:5-6

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Well, it looks like we can safely assume which side of this debate Jesus Christ would be on.

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Posted by **Asinus Gravis** @ 5:30 PM Wed, May 06, 2009

Just say "NO" to government mandated prayers!

[report as abusive](#)

Posted by **Syndi Long** @ 8:44 AM Thu, May 07, 2009

The Constitution clearly states that the Government can not declare a National Religion. Simply put , we can not be forced to be part of a particular denomination or a particular religion.

People seem to get confused in thinking that the Government can not say anything, or do anything, or display anything ever(like the 10 Commandments) that has to do with God.

Wrong!

It says nothing about the government being or not being a part of anything to do with religion or God. It just can not force us all to be Catholic or Baptist or Jewish, etc. . This country was partly founded on God's basic principles and commandments. Nothing wrong with that. No matter what religion you are, or, if you are no religion at all, We need to follow the laws of being decent human beings; we should all not kill, not steal, not commit adultery etc etc.

The Constitution does not say that the Government can not acknowledge, recognize or respect people's belief in God or a higher power. We may not all be Christian, or Jewish or any particular religion but the majority of Americans do pray and believe in a Creator.

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Posted by **Down with the Christian Taliban** @ 10:56 AM Thu, May 07, 2009

Syndi:

It's a little more complicated than that. It's not just that the government cannot force us to become Christians or Jews or Muslims, etc, although that is part of it. A government employee also cannot use his/her position to promote certain religious practices or beliefs. Think of examples like this: What if a Muslim judge decides to force all women he sees in his courtroom to wear burkas, or offers up

prayers to Allah on behalf of the state? Christians, Jews and atheists would all join in unison to remove the offending judge, and very few would agree with his right to impose his narrow precepts on the general public.

Yes, you have freedom to believe what you want, but you do not have the freedom to use a government position to try to spread your belief or reward others for believing it. Here's another example. A teacher is a state employee. She may have a bible in her desk, she may even read it to herself during her breaks while in the school. She may even discuss Christianity or theological issues in an objective manner if they come up in social studies or English class - or science. But she may not give extra credit for students who come to her after school bible study, and she may not read her bible to the class devotionally. And that's a good thing. How anyone would want that is beyond me. All it should take is for a Christian to reflect on how they would like it if their precious Johnny were to be subjected to Muslim prayers and scripture from the Koran every morning in 1st period.

report as abusive

Posted by **tomtom** @ 12:26 PM Thu, May 07, 2009

Syndi Long said "This country was partly founded on God's basic principles and commandments."

Please elaborate on the principals _unique to Christianity_ which are the foundation of this country.

report as abusive

Posted by **LookItUp** @ 1:01 PM Thu, May 07, 2009

Rod Wilson said, "Our currency and the Supreme Court of the United States have "God Bless America" written all around them, additionally 95% of our courts have the Ten Commandments displayed for all to see. And that's how our fore-fathers wanted it."

Our fore-fathers may have wanted it that way, but not our founding fathers.

Little time line for reference

1776 - Declaration of independence
 1787 - Constitution of the United States
 1790 - last of the 13 colonies ratifies constitution
 1836 - Last of the founding fathers dies
 1861 - Civil War begins
 1865 - Civil war ends
 1864 - "In God We Trust" first appears on a coin (attributed to an upswing of religious sentiment during the Civil War.)
 1914 - WWI beginning
 1919 - WWI ends
 1939 - WWII starts
 1941 - US enters WWII after Pearl Harbor Hawaii Attack
 1945 - WWII ends
 1950 - Korean War begins
 1952 - "Under God" added to the Pledge of allegiance
 1953 - Korean War ends
 1955 - "In God we trust" required on all currency
 1956 - "In God we trust" adopted as the national motto
 1959 - Hawaii becomes a state
 1965 - US troops enter Vietnam War

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Posted by **NotAsBadAsItLooks** @ 7:56 AM Fri, May 08, 2009

RelicMM said, "If you separate the church from the state, you remove moral values from law. The result has never been more apparent than in our current national government. Life itself is no longer a viable moral entity."

Moral values are values based on the laws of God, not on the laws of man.

If you are looking to the government for moral guidance, you are truly lost.

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Posted by **Justathought** @ 5:54 PM Thu, Jul 09, 2009

The funny thing about all those who advocate a separation of church and state, with the exception of some far left groups, also espouse that this does not mean there is a separation of faith (religion) and politics. Only those who confuse "Religion" with "Church" and "State" with "Politics" try to prevent the inevitable overlapping of religion and politics. Whose business would it be, for example, to give people guidance on the morality of matters like war, justice, crime, the treatment and punishment of convicts, gambling, sexism, child labor, homelessness, immigration, pornography, prostitution, poverty, marriage, spousal abuse, child abuse, adultery, abortion ect. Most issues are clearly a matter of both. The funny thing is once people exercise their faith to the influence of their civic duties and enough of them who lobby actually change policy as permitted them by religious liberty, there appears then to be a hypocritical uprising from the very group that advocates their liberty. Question: We may not be a "Christian nation," but what would happen if, according to the evangelistic efforts of others, we became a "nation of Christians." Wouldn't policy be affected then and would it not be constitutional?

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Comments:

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Update May 4, 2007. Coverage of the day's activities is here.

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National Day of Prayer Proves to Be a Subsidiary of Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family leader mounts attack on New York governor to force him to

Issue a proclamation
by JewsOnFirst.org, May 1, 2007

Major figures on the Christian Right are pulling out all the stops to simulate an official, government-endorsed national prayer day scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd.

Focus on the Family, regarded as the nation's most powerful religious right group, effectively controls the day's events, according to news reports and interfaith non-profits.

On Monday, Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson thanked his followers for successfully badgering New York Governor Elliot Spitzer into becoming the 50th governor to sign a proclamation for the National Day of Prayer.

Dobson's wife chairs the self-appointed National Day of Prayer Task Force. The group is organizing prayer events in and near official buildings and schools to give the impression of government-endorsed religion. Interlinked websites promoting this year's event (listed on the task force home page pictured here) also include web pages on evangelizing military personnel. We've provided examples and links at the end of this report.

One of the interlinked websites operated by the pseudo-official Presidential Prayer Team promotes a "National Observance" from Washington DC, bidding the public to: "[j]oin with us as we celebrate America's 56th annual National Day of Prayer from our nation's capitol." James Dobson will be one of the presenters.

Purposeful exclusion of other faith traditions

According to the Texas Freedom Network, whose educational fund produced a research report on the prayer day in 2005, the task force is "essentially an arm of James Dobson's Focus on the Family" and the events it sponsors "purposefully exclude participation by people of other faith traditions."

In a statement issued last week the Texas Freedom Network warned that the task force -- "sometimes with the tacit approval and support of elected local and national officials - uses the day to promote 'culture war' battles that divide, rather than unite, our nation."

Indeed, the task force requires coordinators of local prayer day events to sign an explicitly Christian statement of faith "confirming your commitment to Christ."

Both the Salt Lake Tribune and the Colorado Springs Gazette report that non-Christians participants have been turned away from events. The Gazette interviewed a woman who says she is no longer allowed to be an coordinator because she invited people of other faiths to participate in an event she organized.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force website has a dismissive item entitled "Official Policy Statement on Participation of 'Non-Judeo-Christian' groups in the National Day of Prayer." The "official" policy is that these "non" religious groups should organize their own, presumably unofficial events.

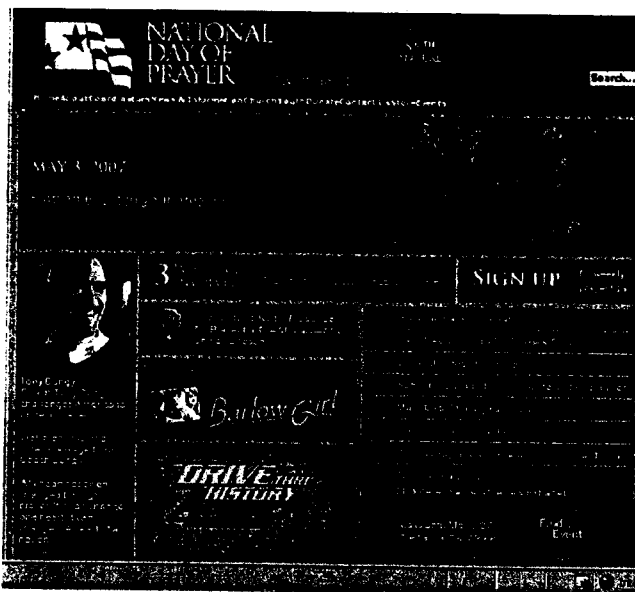
Focus On the Family attack on Governor Spitzer

The appending of "Judeo" like a fig leaf over sectarian, right-wing evangelical Christianity, is particularly insolent in light of James Dobson's harassment campaign against New York Governor Elliot Spitzer. Dobson's message about Spitzer had a distinctly anti-Jewish edge.

On April 27, Dobson emailed his supporters and posted on his CitizenLink website this message:

We want to make you aware of a slap in the face the governor of New York has delivered to people of faith all across the country.

Gov. Elliot Spitzer - who just a few days ago promised to sign a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in his state, should one land on his desk - apparently has refused to sign a



Topics in this section: **ATTACKS ON CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**

Religious coercion at the US Air Force Academy

Christocrats build military might

Court-stripping and religious legislation

Faith-based diversion of public funds

Government-sponsored prayer

Religious displays on public property

Indiana legislators seek prayer

Gov't-funded faith-based prison programs

How Jews see it

Return to main page: **ATTACKS ON CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**

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proclamation supporting Thursday's observance of the National Day of Prayer. The governors of the other 49 states have already issued such proclamations, acknowledging the need for America to unite in prayer. How arrogant that the governor of New York, which was the target of the vicious and unprovoked attacks on 9/11, does not believe the people of his state need divine guidance and protection.

ATTACKS ON CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

Won't you take a minute or two - no matter what state you live in - to let Gov. Spitzer know what you think about his refusal to acknowledge the National Day of Prayer? Remind him that this country was founded as a Christian nation - and he will insult and offend millions if he continues down the path he is on.

ATTACKS ON GAY & LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS

Scant news coverage of Christian Right's takeover of prayer day
 Moderate Christians, Catholics, Mormons, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and others who, in past years participated in prayer day events, are critical of the religious right's takeover of the event. Among the critics is the Interfaith Alliance which represents mainstream faith traditions.

ATTACKS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

"For Focus on the Family to claim that its website is the official website of the National Day of Prayer is highly irresponsible," said the alliance's spokesman William Blake. "Could you imagine if the Sierra Club claimed that its website was the official website of Earth Day? The American people deserve to know the truth about this scheme."

Would you like to read more reports like this?

But the American people are unlikely to learn about the religious right's takeover because, to date, no national newspaper or network has exposed it. The *Salt Lake Tribune* published a story Friday about the exclusion of non-fundamentalist Christians by the Focus on the Family-dominated National Day of Prayer Task Force. And on Saturday the *Gazette* in Colorado Springs, where Focus on the Family is based, wrote in some detail about the takeover and noted the religious right political agenda for which prayers were crafted.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

JewsOnFirst.org

CURTAILING OPTIONS FOR REPRODUCTIVE & SEXUAL HEALTH

Accessible extremism

There is not much mystery, should the national media come looking. The extremism of the groups participating and their agendas are immediately evident on web pages linking from the home page of the "official website" of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. The links on the lower right quarter of the page go to a network of websites showcasing other Christian Right groups.

INTIMIDATION OF JUDGES

Most notable among these is the "Military Ministry" link found in the left margin of the Task Force's military page, a few inches above the Oliver North link. Military Ministry is one of the many innocuously named operations of Campus Crusade for Christ. ([More here](#))

OPPOSING STEM CELL RESEARCH

A click on the "[Evangelism and Discipleship](#)" menu item brings up a video in which the speaker says: "Military Ministry's first strategic objective is to Evangelize and Disciple All Enlisted Members of the US Military. We seek to provide every uniformed son and daughter of America with an anchor for the soul through Jesus Christ. This process begins at the recruit training bases...boot camps...where new troops are transformed physically, mentally, and ideally... spiritually."

"INTELLIGENT DESIGN" (CREATIONISM)

The schools link offers a curriculum with a "Christian worldview" by David Barton, a religious right leader who argues that the US was founded as a Christian nation. The schools link also offers a kit to organize a prayer day at school and an "adopt-a-leader" program, which encourages children to pray for their political leaders.

EVANGELIZING THE JEWS

We have assembled quotes from some of those websites below.

WORKING FOR THE RETURN OF PATRIARCHY

National Day of Prayer Task Force

Turning a Day of Faith into a Rally for the Christian Right

Texas Freedom Network, April 2007

Although originally established by Congress in 1952 as a day of prayer for people of all faiths, in recent years the National Day of Prayer has been co-opted by the religious right to advance a politicized, sectarian agenda. This is due in large part to a deceptive and deliberate strategy executed by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private organization that explicitly excludes participation by any non-Christian group in its programs.

INTRUDING ON FAMILY PRIVACY

Although the NDP Task force has no recognized standing with any governmental body, its Web site bills itself as the "official" Web site of the National Day of Prayer. Further, the group's extensive organizing efforts at the federal, state and local level have established it as the de facto national sponsor. This is evidenced by widespread endorsement in the media and, more alarmingly, by state and local governments. [Continue](#) reading this summary, which includes links to a 2005 report on the prayer day by the Texas Freedom Network's Educational Fund.

INTERVENTION ABROAD

Day of Prayer: Our way or the highway?

Peggy Fletcher Stack, The Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2007

Next week's National Day of Prayer was once a symbol of American unity and faith in God that transcended boundaries.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS

In recent years, though, the decades-old tradition has become mired in divisions.

Across the nation, most celebrations are organized by and for evangelical Christians, with others choosing to host alternative services. Believers from Muncie, Ind., to Oklahoma City to Troy, Mich., and Salt Lake City have added more inclusive events, with participation across the spiritual spectrum.

JewsOnFirst.Org
 RESISTING THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT

The holiday began in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked Americans to pray for guidance as it was trying to birth a nation. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer" in 1863. Nearly a century later, Harry Truman made it an annual event, and in 1988, Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May so citizens could join in worship across all religious boundaries. [Continue](#).

Day to Pray

National event set aside for all, but evangelicals play the lead role

Paul Asay, The Colorado Springs Gazette, April 28, 2007

Anyone can pray. And most people do.

They pray in gratitude, in pain, in petition. They pray to sink that putt, pass that test, survive this day. Some pray without knowing who they pray to, but they pray all the same.

The National Day of Prayer is about all that, but since its inception, it's become something else, too: It's now as much about redstate values, about presidential proclamations, about Bible-reading marathons on the Capitol steps. It's a day where communion wine mingles with apple pie, and some wonder whether the National Day of Prayer really encompasses all Americans.

"It's become an exclusively evangelical event," said Victoria Heim, who is organizing a local multifaith Day of Prayer observation at Shove Chapel. [Continue](#).

Americans Unite in Prayer

National Day of Prayer encourages families to honor God.

Stuart Shepard, CitizenLink.net, May 3, 2007

As part of today's National Day of Prayer (NDP), millions of Americans shared in a prayer written by Dr. Chuck Swindoll that recognizes the absolute sovereignty of God.

This year's theme is America, Unite in Prayer. In his prayer that was heard nationally on Christian radio and over the Internet, Swindoll acknowledged total dependence on God.

"Our need for Your forgiveness is constant," he prayed. "Our gratitude for Your grace is profound. Our love for You is deep." [Continue](#)

Focus on the Family's emails on Governor Eliot Spitzer

New York Governor Snubs National Day of Prayer

Refuses to sign proclamation.

Posted by Focus on the Family on April 27, preserved by JewsOnFirst.org

Text:

We want to make you aware of a slap in the face the governor of New York has delivered to people of faith all across the country.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer - who just a few days ago promised to sign a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in his state, should one land on his desk - apparently has refused to sign a proclamation supporting Thursday's observance of the National Day of Prayer. The governors of the other 49 states have already issued such proclamations, acknowledging the need for America to unite in prayer. How arrogant that the governor of New York, which was the target of the vicious and unprovoked attacks on 9/11, does not believe the people of his state need divine guidance and protection.

Won't you take a minute or two - no matter what state you live in - to let Gov. Spitzer know what you think about his refusal to acknowledge the National Day of Prayer? Remind him that this country was founded as a Christian nation - and he will insult and offend millions if he continues down the path he is on.

The original web-posting of Dobson's email was removed on Monday and replaced with the victory message below. We saved the original as a PDF, which you can see [here](#).

New York Governor Changes Mind, Signs Prayer Proclamation

Reversal comes after Focus on the Family listeners call his offices.

Focus on the Family Citizenlink.net, April 30, 2007

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer has changed his mind and has signed a proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. [Continue](#)

From the websites of the prayer-day promoters

What it takes to Become a Coordinator

A simple application with contact data and statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ is all that's needed to get you on the way to becoming a NDP Task Force volunteer coordinator. [National Day of Prayer Task Force Coordinators](#)

Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer:

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values.

Would you
like to read
more reports
like this?

People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based. *About the National Day of Prayer Task Force*

How to Adopt-a-Leader

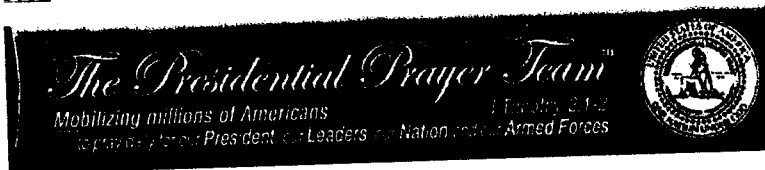
It is so important to encourage and pray for those who govern us. Here's some ways to adopt-a-leader (a kit is also available from our Store).

First, choose a leader God lays on your heart. You may watch your local newspaper or news on television or look at the sites below. Ask the Lord's direction in choosing a leader. Some people to pray for are government officials, police officers, teachers, firefighters, and military personnel.

Here are some resources for finding government leaders to pray for: [Adopt A Leader \(on the schools page\)](#)

Drive Thru History

The National Day of Prayer, in partnership with historian David Barton and Coldwater Media, is proud to present Drive Thru History America, a new, cutting-edge, multi-media curriculum that teaches the history of our nation from a Christian Worldview. Discover the character, faith, experiences and accomplishments of America's Founders as they developed this great country where we can worship, work, travel, and live in freedom! In this adventure-filled teaching series, you'll travel to Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Virginia to learn about the life and times of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams, Benjamin Banneker, and more. *National Day of Prayer Task Force Schools, May 3, 2007*



The Presidential Prayer Team

An organization associated with Billy Graham's son Franklin, linked from the "official" task force website

National days of prayer are nothing new in the United States. The first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming the nation. In 1952, President Truman signed a joint resolution by Congress declaring an annual national day of prayer. Then, in 1988, the Truman law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently establishing the first Thursday of May as the National Day of Prayer.

Our country has been uniting in prayer on that day ever since. Now, with the nation as divided as ever about the war in Iraq and with transitions of power fully underway in Congress, the President, our leaders and every man and woman in uniform need God's guidance like never before. You can pray His presence into their lives with your participation in the National Day of Prayer through The Presidential Prayer Team Online Prayer Rally on Thursday, May 3.

You will partner throughout the day with Christians across the nation in this great, continuous prayer meeting for our President, leaders and troops. Unified prayer is powerful, "for where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20) *National Day of Prayer 2007 Prayer Events*

See also: Research on the Presidential Prayer Team by SourceWatch, a project of the Center for Media and Democracy. Sourcewatch notes in a 2004 report "the lack of any information on the [PPT's] site informing visitors that the organization is not sponsored or funded by the President or any agency of the federal government." SourceWatch says that the group "is a private foundation whose promotion is being handled by The Envoy Group, a self-described 'new kind of Christian advertising agency.'" [Click here](#) for more.

Christian Leadership



Military Ministry's first strategic objective is to **Evangelize and Disciple All Enlisted Members of the US Military**. We seek to provide every uniformed son and daughter of America with an "anchor for the soul through Jesus Christ. This process begins at the recruit training bases ... boot camps ... where new troops are transformed physically, mentally, and ideally ... spiritually.

We seek to not only impact the Armed Forces in this way, but to also transform our entire nation as we build values, character and Christian faith into these dear ones who serve us at home and abroad. *Evangelism and Discipleship*

International Ministries

The same principles that apply to the military ministry in the United States are true in the militaries of nations around the world as we seek to **Change Continents for Christ**. Our goal is to transform nations of the world through the militaries of the world. We seek to train, equip, and partner with indigenous leaders to establish "sending platforms" in each region of the world. *International Ministries*

Gettysburg 2007 Summer Project (June 1 - July 13)

Two and six week options. We'll be giving tours of the museum and helping with weekend and weekday Civil War Chapel Services. During the July Reenactment, we'll participate as Agents for the US Christian Commission (the 1800s version of Military Ministry) ... telling the story of faith and sharing the gospel as we interact with the 20,000 plus tourists, pass out civil war gospel tracts, and conduct Civil War Chapels. *Gettysburg 2007 Summer Project*

The Navigators Military Ministry

We envision a movement of thousands of courageous men and women passionately following Christ, representing Him in advancing the Gospel through relationships where they live, work, train for war, and deploy. This movement includes men and women of all races and ranks, and permeates the military community on and around every U.S. installation and foreign military around the world. *Navigators Military Ministry*

Coverage of National Day of Prayer Events

The screenshot below is of a television news report by a station in the Dobson's hometown, Colorado Springs.

Dozens of Heads Were Bowled

Dana Milbank, Washington Post, May 4, 2007

Let us pray.

Let us pray that, on next year's National Day of Prayer, there is better attendance at the "Bible Reading Marathon" on the West Front of the Capitol.

Organizers put out 600 folding chairs on the lawn -- the spot where presidents are inaugurated -- and set up a huge stage with powerful amplifiers. But at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, not one of the 600 seats was occupied. By 11 a.m., as a woman read a passage from Revelations, attendance had grown -- to four people. Finally, at 1 p.m., 37 of the 600 seats were occupied, though many of those people were tourists eating lunch. *Continue.*

National Prayer Day marred by divisions

Peggy Fletcher, Whittier Daily News (Whittier, California), April 3, 2007

Thursday's National Day of Prayer was once a symbol of American unity and faith in God that transcended boundaries. In recent years, though, the decades-old tradition has become mired in divisions.

Across the nation, most celebrations are organized by and for evangelical Christians, with others choosing to host alternative services. Believers in Muncie, Ind.; Oklahoma City; Troy, Mich.; Salt Lake City and more have added more inclusive events, with participation across the spiritual spectrum.

The holiday began in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked Americans to pray for guidance as it was trying to birth a nation. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of fasting and prayer in 1863. Nearly a century later, Harry Truman made it an annual event, and in 1988, Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May so citizens could join in worship across all religious boundaries. *Continue.*

Mississippi jurist encourages prayer at D.C. event

Ana Radclat, The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi), May 4, 2007

Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jim Smith came to Washington on Thursday to make "judicial branch remarks" at a National Day of Prayer event on Capitol Hill.

The event, held in a cavernous room at the Cannon House Office Building, had the feeling of a religious revival and was aimed at encouraging Americans to pray.

Smith spoke about the importance of prayer in his life, especially after a bout with cancer and the death of his first wife. He said "a prayer line with God gives people their strength." [Continue.](#)

Church, state get closer for a day

> Nearly 100 gather in Bel Air for National Day of Prayer observance

Mary Gail Hare, The Baltimore Sun, May 4, 2007

While noontime traffic rolled past on Main Street in Bel Air yesterday, a crowd of about 100 people gathered in front of the Harford County Courthouse in small groups. Clusters of strangers filled the courtyard, locking arms with one another, eyes closed and heads bowed.

This was not the monthly assembly of peace demonstrators, the casual lunch bunch on a pleasant spring day, or the concert-goers at the town's weekly First Friday events, all of whom convene regularly on the courthouse grounds in the county seat. This group had come to pray and sing in voices that overcame the din of cars, trucks and sirens. [Continue.](#)

Prayer day in Akron is divided

Christians gather at courthouse, interfaith group meets at church with different themes displayed

Colette M. Jenkins and Carl Chancellor, Akron Beacon-Journal, May 04, 2007

Millions of Americans came together across the nation on Thursday to pray and echo the theme "America, Unite in Prayer."

But in Akron, the 56th annual observance of National Day of Prayer was divided -- a Christian-based event drew about 150 people to the steps of the Summit County Courthouse downtown while an interfaith service several blocks away at Church of the Master United Methodist Church on East Market Street attracted more than 50 people, including those of the Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish faiths.

"It's lovely to see the diversity. It is truly the face of America," said Chloe Ann Kriska, executive director of the Akron Area Association of Churches. "On National Day of Prayer, all people of all faiths are to come together and pray in accordance with the way we are accustomed to praying. Muslims need not hide Mohammed today and Christians need not hide Jesus today. If we deny who we are in our faith, it leads to the rumor mill and the rumor mill leads to the hate mill." [Continue.](#)

'Sim Shalom' at national prayer day

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, May 4, 2007

The U.S. Army Chorus sang "Sim Shalom," the final prayer of the Amidah, at the National Day of Prayer at the White House.

The chorus opened Thursday's event with a rendition of the prayer that ends the Amidah, the most common set of Jewish prayers, recited three times a day. The "Sim Shalom" prayer beseeches God for peace.

President Bush addressed the event, and a number of U.S. senators were in attendance. Rabbi Michael Siegel of Anshe Emet, a conservative congregation in Chicago, was among a number of clerics delivering remarks. He recited Psalm 145, saying that it offered solace to President Abraham Lincoln during the U.S. Civil War.

The original report is [here](#).

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EXHIBIT 82

National Day of Prayer Under Attack

by Susan Brinkmann, OCDS

Staff Writer

(May 1, 2008) On this 57th National Day of Prayer in the United States, while millions of Americans are attending prayer gatherings around the country, representatives of other faiths are protesting the "Christian slant" of the day and calling for more "inclusive" services.

According to Liberty Counsel, a non-profit legal organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, protests are erupting throughout the nation.

"Whenever God is mentioned in this society, controversy cannot be far behind," the Counsel said in a recent statement. "Some groups like the pro-Muslim group, CAIR (Counsel on American Islamic Relations), complain that prayer events organized by Christians on that day are slanted toward Christianity, rather than being 'inclusive' of other faiths. They want to hijack the traditional Christian prayer events and turn the national focus from a time of intercession into a watered-down version with moments of silence and reflection."

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May and invites people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Conference and signed into law by Harry S. Truman. However, the resolution is just another on a long list of national days of prayer and fasting that date back to the time of George Washington. Because the nation was founded on Christian principles and the majority of Americans are Christian, these days of observance have traditionally been observed in a Christian manner.

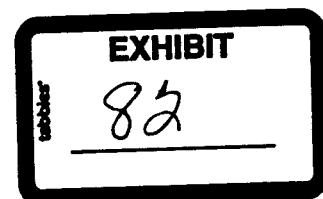
This is not acceptable to many groups, who believe the nation should observe the day in a more "inclusive" fashion. Most of their protests are being aimed at the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private Christian group headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

The Task Force was founded to coordinate events for the National Day of Prayer. It specifically requires all prayer coordinators to sign a pledge of faith in Jesus Christ and requests that events be "conducted solely by Christians while those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

Although the Task Force is a private group, many believe it receives at least tacit approval by the government with an annual proclamation by President Bush and prayer ceremonies held at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

However, as Becky Armstrong, a spokeswoman for the National Day of Prayer Task Force told the *Post*, people of other faiths are perfectly free to organize their own events.

"The task force has chosen to conduct events that reflect its Christian perspective on prayer," she said. "All Americans are free to exercise their First Amendment rights to organize events that observe the National Day of Prayer in a manner that reflects their religious perspective."



The fact that the Task Force and most of the Day's observances are Christian remains unacceptable to groups such as CAIR and Jews on First, a group formed in October, 2005 to "oppose the growing strength of the Christian right." The two groups issued a joint proclamation calling upon American Muslims and members of other faith communities to contact governors and other elected officials to make any government-sponsored observances more representative of the nation's diversity.

"Mainstream religious leaders have criticized the organizers of National Day of Prayer events for restricting participation to a narrow group of evangelicals," the statement reads. "Even though prayer day events are sponsored by a private organization, observances receive unofficial government approval through a proclamation by President Bush and ceremonies held at the White House and in Congress."

Jews on First, is conducting an "Inclusive National Day of Prayer" campaign to lobby governors for "alternative inclusive observances."

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked!" the group declares on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines."

The Orange County California chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State sent more than 2,000 letters to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him to not to support events where hosts are limited to evangelical Christians.

Some say the pressure is beginning to pay off. Dr. Ravi Zacharias, the 2008 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer, has excluded the name of Jesus Christ from his official prayer, choosing to end it with "In God's holy name."

A receptionist with the National Day of Prayer in Colorado Springs told the *Christian NewsWire* that he excluded the name of Jesus so as not to offend the Jewish participants in the event, and that others are free to pray in Jesus name if they desire.

"This nation was birthed by Christianity and national prayers have traditionally recognized that fact," states the Liberty Counsel. "Days of prayer and fasting are a traditional and important part of American history. Prayer and spiritual renewal are necessary to sustain liberty. We need leaders in all sectors, both public and private, who are not afraid to acknowledge Jesus Christ. Christians should never forget Who gave us our freedom. Without Him, this Nation will not and cannot long endure."

There is no better way to know and experience God than through prayer. For practical tips on how to enhance your prayer life, see "Prayer", a 4 CD set by Johnnette Benkovic available in our store at www.womenofgrace.com/catalog

EXHIBIT 83



American Muslim Perspective

www.amperspective.com Online Magazine

Executive Editor: Abdus Sattar Ghazali

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AMP Comment - April 30, 2008

Evangelicals highjack the National Day of Prayer

By Abdus Sattar Ghazali

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"Evangelicals attempt to exclude non-Christians from National Day of Prayer," this Mother Jones headline best reflects the controversy over the National Day of Prayer (NDP) observed this year on Thursday, May 1, 2008.

The National Day of Prayer (NDP) was once a symbol of American unity and faith in God that transcended boundaries but in recent years the decades-old tradition has become mired in divisions.

The holiday began in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked Americans to pray for guidance as it was trying to birth a nation. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of fasting and prayer in 1863. Nearly a century later, Harry Truman made it an annual event, and in 1988, Ronald Reagan set aside the first Thursday in May so citizens could join in worship across all religious boundaries.

That changed in the 1990s, when the National Day of Prayer Committee established a task force to help coordinate activities across the country and connected it with Colorado's Focus on the Family. The conservative group, led by prominent evangelical James Dobson, took charge of the day, then insisted that all participants adhere to its "Judeo-Christian" theological tenets. Shirley Dobson, wife of James Dobson is the chairperson of the Task Force since 1991.

The Task force's website says that the National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs.

A Task Force volunteer must be an evangelical Christian who has a personal relationship with Christ. According to the Task force website the applicants must indicate whether their lives reflect a belief statement that begins: "I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God."

Thanks to Dobson, this year's task force volunteers are required to sign pledges, stating: "I commit that National Day Prayer activities I serve with will be conducted solely by Christians while those of differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

Even though prayer day events are sponsored by a private organization, observances receive unofficial government approval through a proclamation by the President and ceremonies held at the White House and in Congress. President George W. Bush's official National Day of Prayer proclamation used the same theme as the Dobson's Task Force "Prayer! America's Strength & Shield." A large number of governors have also issued proclamations adopting the National Day of Prayer Task Force's theme.

This year, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), a leading Muslim civil rights group joined Jews On First, in calling on American Muslims and members of other faith communities to contact governors and other elected officials nationwide to ask that any government-sponsored "National Day of Prayer" observances on May 1st be representative of our nation's religious diversity.

There have been several national days of prayer in the U.S. before the day was made official in 1952. The Continental Congress issued a day of prayer in 1775 to designate "a time for prayer in forming a new nation". Thomas Jefferson argued however, that although individual religious organizations had the right to designate a day of prayer, the U.S. government should not have that right.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law. It was in 1972 that the National Prayer Committee was formed. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May.

The intention of the National Day of Prayer was always that it would be a day when members of all faiths could pray together in their own way. It would involve Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Aborigines, Zoroastrians, and all others who had a religious faith and wished to participate.

It was meant to encourage Americans of all faiths to pray with one another in whatever way felt best to them. It would be an ecumenical celebration of faith that would draw people together in common religious and spiritual contemplation. However, Dobson has made a point of "excluding Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Buddhists, and even mainline Christians" from the National Day of Prayer.

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tabbles

The United States is generally recognized as being the most religiously diverse nation in the world. Holding National Day of Prayer events which are inclusive of all religions may go a long way towards promoting interfaith understanding.

Unfortunately, what began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines.

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National Day of Prayer: inclusive or exclusive?

April 29, 12:00 PM

6 comments ShareThis RSS Report Email Print

The National Day of Prayer, on May 7 this year, has been recognized by the United States Congress since 1952 as a day when Americans are asked to come together to pray. Because it does not specify a religion, it seems to have escaped the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment clause prohibiting the congress from making laws "respecting an establishment of religion," though many civil liberty advocates and constitutional scholars would beg to differ.

The day was founded at a time when Americans were trying to distinguish themselves from overtly atheist Soviet Communism during the red scare, coding "in God we trust" as the national motto (1956) and inserting "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance (1954).

The vision can be one of unity: all people, regardless of faith, bowing heads together in the spirit of unity to respect and recognize our common humanity and create some positive spiritual energy for the good of the nation.

Yet there are certainly American citizens who don't pray - who don't believe in prayer - and who are unlikely to be impressed by the day's overtly spiritual message. Respecting all faiths is not the same as respecting all people regardless of faith, which is what the Constitution was designed to do. An overtly "multifaith" society still promotes faith over nonfaith, and there are even many religious groups that do not pray and do not formally believe in God.

The National Day of Prayer task force is a nongovernmental group funded primarily by Evangelical Christian churches to promote the Day of Prayer. They ask for a wherever-you-are gathering of the nation's Christians hoping to foster Christian unity and make Christian prayer more visible in American society. According to the project's website, "The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible."

This presentation of the National Day of Prayer fosters unity of the nation's Christians, or at least the Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Evangelicals and other easily-accepted Christian groups. They do not state whether or not they consider Roman Catholics, Latter Day Saints or Jehovah's Witness to be part of the Christian community, but since they do not formally exclude these Christian-identifying groups we can consider them included.

While it is certainly fair to dispute the factuality of the group's representation of U.S. history, it is also noteworthy that American Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Baha'is, those who practice Native American religions and others are excluded from their presentation of the Day of Prayer, along with religious nontheists, agnostics and the nonreligious alike. Meanwhile, the "Judeo-Christian" values the group promotes are often code for policies that are anti-gay, anti-transgendered and anti-feminist, meaning that many people are born automatically excluded by the group's language.

There are organizations pushing to change the way Americans see the National Day of Prayer - to welcome Evangelical Christians into the interfaith event but also to allow people of other faiths to participate. Jewish and interfaith groups have teamed up for an inclusive prayer day and sent a letter to President Obama asking for

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support. And anyone is welcome to organize an alternative public event on that day to increase the visibility of a welcoming multifaith movement.

It's important to remember that being overtly interfaith is not being anti-Christian, though many conservative groups claim this is so. Inclusion means opening the door to others and leaving no one out. And while the federal recognition of day is a predicament to those who seek to respect the First Amendment, no one can dispute the right that nongovernment groups have to push for a multifaith and multicultural National Day of Prayer.

Author: Matt Pizzuti



Matt Pizzuti is an Examiner from Denver. You can see Matt's articles on [Matt's Home Page](#).

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meko says:

Matthew 6:5-6

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

PR events to support prayer are self serving and hypocritical. Christians have no business doing it, and no one else seems to have enough bad taste to show off like that. Showing off and CLAIMING piety isn't the same thing as genuine faith.

People shouldn't be using Jesus to further their political, financial, and social aspirations in this manner. If you tried to claim Oprah's endorsement without her permission, you'd be sued out of existence.

May 7, 8:01 PM

Old timer says:

Jehovah's Witnesses cult don't play well with others .

They are still developing more tax free real estate.

Know this,the billion dollar Watchtower society corporation had us old time followers convinced that we should live lives of austerity (and give our \$\$\$ to them) because the end of world was coming and we weren't gonna be needing it for our retirement.

The tax exempt Watchtower corporation is much like tax exempt Scientology they will keep buying up property like Scientology has done in Clearwater Florida.
The Watchtower has practically no charity except for an occasional exalted PR puff piece.

Shame on them!

May 3, 2:50 AM

Chris says:

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Other religions pray to different gods? I wasn't aware that Christians believed there was more than one God.

So did Jesus introduce a new God who wasn't the God of the Jews?

The God of the Bible says "I am that I am" when asked by Moses in the Old Testament.

Note that he didn't say "I am Jason, and anybody who calls me Steve is praying to somebody else." In that reference, God refuses to use specific descriptors and instead presents Himself as an ultimate or supreme God, who is the God you believe in if you believe in a Supreme God.

Muslims also worship the God of the Jews, so that's the same god. They believe he as slightly different commandments or qualities. Christians think some of those qualities are wrong, but they are both clearly worshipping the god of Moses and Abraham.

Hindus believe that God exists in everything, including lesser beings that Westerners call gods (with a small g.) In Hinduism, Hindu gods (Krishna, Vishnu, Shiva) are closer to the way Christians see angels or saints.

The Hindu supreme God is monotheist, the One God. So unless the Christian God is not supreme or not the One God, Hindus believe in the same god.

You don't see other faiths inviting Christians to pray with them because in the United States, those other faiths are minority groups. They are not highly visible. When's the last time you met and spoke to a Hindu AT ALL?

People of other faiths are in communities where minorities are present - usually in urban areas. If you are a Christian living within a major city (not the suburbs or rural areas), you're probably more familiar with interfaith activities.

I live in a fairly diverse town and I have been invited to interfaith activities frequently.

April 30, 1:31 PM

Bill says:

It isn't a question of respect for other persons beliefs. Other religions pray to a different god(s) than Christians so it's a useless activity to pray together. We can still live in harmony without praying together.

Are other faiths so lazy that they can't organize their own events and pray for our nation. BTW, I don't see other faiths inviting Christians into their temples, synagogues, etc. to pray with them.

April 30, 8:00 AM

Chris says:

That you don't formally exclude other religions is great, Bob, but why not invite others to pray with you?

What I fear is at play is a religious/political message that praying hand in hand with those of other faiths is the same as "condoning" those faiths in what conservative Christians see as paths to hell.

It would be so easy to just say "The Christian National Day of Prayer Task Force invites non-Christian churches and groups to pray with us." That kind of outreach would do a lot of good in a world divided along religious lines.

But doing so would directly contradict those groups' political orientations that are against anything that could be interpreted as condoning non-Christianity.

April 29, 4:01 PM

Bob says:

This is a day set aside for all Americans to pray. Perhaps this perception that Christians have "hijacked" the day exists because we are well-organized, with thousands of coordinators who plan events attended by millions of people. As a result, our efforts gain a lot of attention surrounding the National Day of Prayer, but we don't take away the right for anyone else to celebrate this day.

Many of these criticisms come from groups that have everything upside down. Nothing prevents Jews, Muslims, etc. from creating their own national prayer committees to contribute to this historic, national observance. There have been 134 national calls for prayer, humiliation, fasting and thanksgiving by the President (1789 to 2008). Since President Reagan's 1988 proclamation establishing the first Thursday in May as annual date for the National Day of Prayer established into law by President Truman in 1952, Christian groups eagerly created national and local prayer committees. Today there are tens of thousands of Christian-oriented events on the 1st Thursday of every May. Jews, however, do not respond in the same way. Virtually no synagogues participate. Our research has revealed little to no events in the newspapers or Internet advertising events sponsored by other faiths as well. Instead other faiths demand penetration into Christian groups or else, incredibly, an end of the National Day of Prayer completely.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force has chosen to conduct events that reflect its Judeo-Christian perspective on prayer. All Americans are free to exercise their First Amendment rights to organize events that observe the National Day of Prayer in a manner that reflects their religious perspective. While we don't put those of different religious perspectives on our platform, we don't exclude them

from attending ,nor do we discourage other faiths from holding their own events on this day.

April 29, 1:58 PM

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Bush salutes the Dobsons, pushes role of religion at White House prayer event. (PEOPLE & EVENTS)(George W. Bush, James and Shirley Dobson)

Article from: Church & State Article date: June 1, 2008
President George W. Bush hosted Religious Right leader James Dobson at a White House event marking the National Day of Prayer May 1.

At an East Room ceremony attended by cabinet officers as well as members of the House of Representatives and Senate, Bush thanked Dobson's wife, Shirley, for serving as chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private group that oversees many Prayer Day activities.

Shirley Dobson opened the White House service with, as Focus on the Family later reported, a "strong, bold and winsome call for America to return to the Lord and pray for its leaders."

Bush then took the podium.

Flanked by the choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral from New York City, the president remarked, "I think one of the interesting things about a National Day of Prayer is it does help describe our nation's character to others. We are a prayerful nation. A lot of citizens draw comfort from prayer. Prayer is an important part of the lives of millions of Americans.

"And it's interesting, when you think about our faith, you can find it in the Pledge of Allegiance, you can find an expression of American faith in the Declaration of Independence, and you can find it in the coins in our pockets.

"Over the last seven years, our country has faced many trials," Bush added. "And time and time again we have turned to prayer and found strength and resilience. We prayed with those who've lost everything in natural disasters, and helped them heal and recover and build..."

"And as we pray for God's continued blessings on our country," he said, "I think it makes sense to hope that one day there may be a International Day of Prayer.... It will be a chance for people of faith around the world to stop at the same time to pause to praise an Almighty."

Later in the day, the Dobsons' NDP Task Force hosted a three-hour service on Capitol Hill. FOF reported that "officials, dignitaries and guests joined together in praying for the nation, its families, its government, its military, and the upcoming election." Similar events took place around the country.

Americans United charged that the National Day of Prayer has been largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda.

"In many cases, this event is more about politics than prayer," said Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's just another excuse for the Religious Right to attack church-state separation."

Lynn noted that the NDP Task Force's Web site claims it is the "National Day of Prayer Official Web Site," but, in fact, the group has no official status. The Task Force states that its purpose is to "Foster unity within the Christian Church" and "Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage." Non-Christians are usually prohibited from leading or speaking at NDP Task Force events.

The Task Force requires volunteer prayer coordinators to sign a fundamentalist statement of faith that declares that "the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God" and that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation."

This year, some advocates of church-state separation fought back. Inclusive events open to people of all faiths and none were held in several cities.

Jews on First, an internet site that promotes church-state separation, launched a "Campaign for an Inclusive National Day of Prayer." Jane Hunter, co-director of Jews on First, told the Christian Science Monitor that the day "has been hijacked. Only Christian clergy are invited to participate."

In an opinion column that was distributed nationwide, AU's Lynn and Interfaith Alliance Foundation

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President C. Welton Gaddy criticized the Religious Right's takeover of the day.

"It's debatable whether a nation founded on the constitutional separation of church and state needs a federal government reminder to pray in the first place," wrote Lynn and Gaddy. "Chalk it up to a less pluralistic, less religiously sensitive age. But the National Day of Prayer really started to deteriorate in 1988, when the National Day of Prayer Task Force was created by the Religious Right, hijacking the National Day of Prayer in the name of those who would make their concept of God the only acceptable one."

The National Day of Prayer was signed into law in 1952 by President Harry Truman. In 1988, Congress amended the law to state that observances would be held the first Thursday in May.

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Albany Times Union (Albany, NY); May 4, 2000 ; 284 words...celebrates its 49th National Day of Prayer today...lunch hour," said National Day of Prayer Task Force chairwoman Shirley...in 1952 that the National Day of Prayer was established...May. This week's National Day of Prayer will be...

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[Article: National Day of Prayer Event Is Up in the Air, Obama Has Yet to...](#)

The Washington Post; April 25, 2009 ; Adelle M Banks; 643 words...observance, the National Day of Prayer Task Force, headed by...conservatives. The task force's work has...taken over" the National Day of Prayer...prayer day. Task force representatives...viewpoints. The National Day of Prayer was...

[Article: Christian faiths to observe National Day of Prayer today](#)

Deseret News (Salt Lake City); May 4, 2006 ; Carrie A. Moore *Deseret Morning News*; 453 words...groups will hold National Day of Prayer observances...Springs-based National Day of Prayer Task Force, said to his...observances, the National Day of Prayer Task Force is led by evangelical...designating the National Day of Prayer as...

Article: Prayer, piety and politics: how the National Day of Prayer became...

Church & State; June 1, 2002 ; Benen, Steve; 700+ words...Dobson, chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, wanted her audience...group known as the National Day of Prayer Task Force has effectively...the goal of the Task Force was to seize control of the National Day of Prayer to advance...

Article: 54TH NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Press-Telegram Long Beach, CA.; May 6, 2005 ; SHAWNA GAMACHE Religion News Service; 581 words...commemorate the 54th annual National Day of Prayer. "The National Day of Prayer was founded...Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and an evangelical Christian...Some critics say the National Day of Prayer Task ...

Article: Some Object to National Day of Prayer

Hannity & Colmes (Fox News Network); April 30, 2007 ; Sean Hannity, Alan Colmes; 700+ words...on the Family, Dr. James Dobson, and National Day of Prayer chairwoman, Mrs. Shirley Dobson...press release. But the people in the National Day of Prayer of New York began asking Governor...Mrs. Dobson, why is there a need for a National Day of Prayer, which kind of has the ...

Article: MADISON GROUP FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT OVER NATIONAL DAY OF...

The Capital Times (Madison, WI); October 3, 2008 ; 334 words...federal law designating a National Day of Prayer. The Madison...Thursday of May each year. The national proclamation issued this...Dobson, chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. A spokesman for the task...hand-in-glove in organizing the National ...

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National Prayer Day continues to divide Americans, AU charges.(PEOPLE & EVENTS)

Article from: [Church & State](#) Article date: [June 1, 2006](#) More results for: [national day prayer task force](#)

Once again, Religious Right leaders and politicians used last month's National Day of Prayer (NDP) observances to politicize religion and divide Americans.

Americans United criticized the annual event, which takes place by federal law on the first Thursday of each May. According to AU, the observance gives Religious Right groups and their allies in public office a platform to push their political agenda and attack church-state separation.

In recent years, religious broadcaster James Dobson and his wife Shirley have assumed a leadership role in promoting the event. In materials released by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a group based in Colorado Springs with annual revenues of just under \$2 million, Shirley Dobson bluntly states that only Christian groups that endorse the Lausanne Covenant, an evangelical statement from the 1970s, should be invited to take part.

This year's theme was "America, Honor God," based on a passage from the first Book of Samuel.

"At a time when so many principles found in Scripture have been rejected by society, it's all the more vital that God's people stand firmly in defense of the precepts He's laid out in His Word," said Shirley Dobson. "As we wage this cultural battle, however, none of our efforts are assured success without constant, fervent prayer for God's intervention."

The Dobsons organized and attended a White House ceremony marking the NDP. Other Religious Right leaders present included Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention and Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council.

During his remarks, President George W. Bush said, "America is a nation of prayer. It's impossible to tell the story of our nation without telling the story of people who pray."

Bush also issued a proclamation calling on Americans to pray. It read in part, "Through prayer, our faith is strengthened, our hearts humbled and our lives are transformed. May our Nation always have the humility to trust in the goodness of God's plans."

Also attending the White House event was Dr. Henry Blackaby, the honorary chairman of the NDP for 2006. Blackaby is author of an evangelical tome titled Experiencing Prayer with Jesus. Americans United criticized the NDP. "James Dobson has shamelessly exploited the National Day of Prayer to advance his divisive political agenda," said Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn. "This merger of religion and politics is exactly what our nation's founding fathers hoped to avoid."

Lynn noted that James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, said governmental prayer proclamations "certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion" and warned that public officials would use such proclamations to advance their political agendas. Thomas Jefferson, as president, refused to issue prayer proclamations and said the Constitution forbids the federal government from "intermeddling with religious institutions, their doctrines, discipline, or exercises."

Lynn noted that this year, Mrs. Dobson even boasts that her group's Web site is the "National Day of Prayer Official Website," although she does not say who gave the group this "official" designation.

Many states rely on the NDP Task Force to shape their events. Material released by the Texas Freedom Network (TFN) noted that in 2005, 26 states adopted the NDP Task Force's theme for their prayer days.

TFN, which opposes the activities of the Religious Right, also noted that in 2005, NDP volunteers booked space at the Plano, Texas, city hall and refused to allow non-Christians to take part.

This year, a flap arose in Springfield, Ill., where a local group called Businessmen in Christ organized NDP activities at the state capitol building. The group excluded all non-Christian speakers and on its Web site proclaimed that the gathering was "only about Jesus and Jesus the Savior alone."

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Sue Stoltz, who coordinates NDP activities in six Midwestern states, said she had no problem inviting a rabbi but that Muslims and Hindus would not be allowed to speak if they attended.

The better answer, she said, is "encouraging them to do their own day of prayer."

Americans United had to remind one community not to sponsor religious worship on the National Day of Prayer. Officials in Portsmouth, Va., promoted city-sponsored religious events to mark the NDE AU attorneys warned them to drop the sponsorship.

"To be sure, city officials, as individuals, have the same rights as anyone else to participate in religious events connected with the National Day of Prayer. But the events themselves must be organized, funded, and sponsored entirely by private organizations," observed AU attorneys in a letter to city officials. When city officials refused to respond, AU attorneys filed a public-records request.

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BAY AREA

National prayer day has yet to diversify

Some say event has been politicized, has evangelical slant

Joe Garofoli, Chronicle Staff Writer
Thursday, May 5, 2005

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From San Francisco's Twin Peaks to the Daytona International Speedway in Florida -- and at thousands of locations in between -- people will gather to bow their heads in the annual National Day of Prayer.

MORE BAY AREA NEWS

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But while California's prayer locations have doubled to 400 since last year, some wonder whether the day -- which has been celebrated since 1952 but only has had a congressionally fixed date since 1988 -- has become too politicized, beholden to evangelical Christians who propelled President Bush to victory in November.

Though the date was set by Congress, the National Day of Prayer Task Force is a private organization, dominated by evangelical Christians, that coordinates activities nationwide. Its co-chair is Shirley Dobson, wife of the James Dobson, who leads Focus on the Family, and the Day of Prayer's Web site reflects many of the Christian organization's conservative viewpoints on social issues.

The task force urges people to take five minutes every day to pray for what it calls the "Freedom Five" -- the government, media, church, family and education.

"Many of our schools," begins the education section of the Freedom Five prayer, are "promoting a radical social agenda. Condom distribution, the promotion of homosexuality and a refusal to acknowledge God have become commonplace in our institutions of learning today.

"Pray that your schools will get 'back to basics' when it comes to educating our children, instilling the leaders of tomorrow with a respect for the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded."

The day will be observed today with a 3 1/2-hour event in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., where House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, is scheduled to speak. Governors from across the nation will issue proclamations, and President Bush will participate in a Washington ceremony -- though he won't appear on a television program with evangelical leaders as he did last year.

The Rev. Leslie Tune, a spokeswoman for the National Council of Churches, which is active on Capitol Hill, said that because of the many different political perspectives of its 36 member denominations, the Freedom Five prayer "isn't something that we would touch. We encourage people to pray regularly, though."

Some say that as a result of the politicization, the day's prayers have been largely Christian.

Neither the state National Day coordinator nor the Bay Area's regional organizer could name any Muslim or Buddhist organization or individual participating in a ceremony today. They could name only one Jewish group.



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"They certainly are welcome to do so if they'd like to. If you're Muslim, and you want to celebrate the National Day of Prayer, we encourage it," said Joe Walsh, California's coordinator. "Anybody can celebrate it, but it has a Judeo-Christian focus. The point of the day isn't to be ecumenical."

Rabbi Kevin Lind, leader of the messianic Brit Ahavah congregation that meets in Dublin, has participated in the National Day of Prayer several times because "prayer is extremely important, because people have to establish a relationship with God."

But he attributes the dearth of participating Jews, who are traditionally more politically liberal, to the fact that the day is organized by more politically conservative Christians.

"I'd like to do something where we could have participation from a lot of different communities, especially Jewish communities," Lind said. "The way it's been done, while it is technically open to everybody, it is largely evangelical. And that's a perception you'd have to deal with."

Others say that is evidence of how the day has lost its meaning since 1952, when President Harry Truman called for "a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday," for prayer.

"The day has been taken over by evangelicals," said Robert Boston, a spokesman for Americans for Separation of Church and State, which is organizing an alternative event in Oklahoma City featuring several different denominations. "It's legal, as legal challenges to it in the past haven't been that successful."

The reason: The National Day of Prayer events are organized by a private organization, not the government.

Boston says Bush's appearance with evangelical leaders last year "was a political move in an election year. But despite all that, this hasn't made a dent in the culture. It's a big rallying day for evangelicals, but that's about it."

Countered Terrell Mayton, of the National Day of Prayer Task Force: "I don't understand how praying can be politicized. It's about a personal relationship with God."

Mayton said there had been a swell of corporate involvement in this year's event. Pilgrim's Pride, a poultry producer, is hosting events at 56 of its plants and offices in 17 states, and 15,000 people are expected to pray today at the Daytona speedway.

Some events will have counter-prayers. Mark Thomas, president of Silicon Valley Atheists, will protest an event outside San Jose City Hall holding a sign that says, "Praying is Begging."

Other participants don't care about penetrating the culture, or about the politics that shroud the day.

Sharon Gilbert, a Catholic who lives in Daly City, will quietly meet with others at Twin Peaks and pray. "I've gone to several meetings, and I haven't picked up on this political thing," she said.

E-mail Joe Garofoli at jgarofoli@sfgchronicle.com.

This article appeared on page **B - 1** of the San Francisco Chronicle

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NEWS SHORTS

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ONE COLLEGE, UNDER HAWKINS, WITH TICKET AND PARKING HIKES FOR ALL

Boise State confirmed the pre-eminence of football above all other forms of "higher education" this week, when the State Board of Education gave the final OK for an \$8.9 million, 80,000-square-foot indoor practice facility for the Bronco football team ... and some other, auxiliary programs. According to plans released by the construction firm McAvain, who was selected along with Hansen Rice, Inc. to undertake the project, the facility will contain a full-sized football field as well as room for offices and rehearsal and storage space for cheerleaders, dance teams and marching bands. McAvain will break ground on the facility in May, and plans on having it ready for "temporary use" by training bowl teams in December. Final completion of the project is slated for February 2006. University sports officials have said that the project will be paid for through private fund-raising, as well as football ticket surcharges and reserved parking fees—in other words, get ready to walk even further to find a good parking spot for a game. And speaking of the inadequate parking, the proposed eyecore will take up space that is currently being used for parking and landscaping around the stadium. Go Blue.

BRONCO STUDENTS GET BUCKED BY NEW LAW

While private funding is rampant enough to fund new and marginally necessary practice fields, state funding is dwindling for Idaho's colleges. In response, on April 21 the Idaho State Board of Education approved tuition and fee-hikes at Idaho's public colleges universities. Boise State students can plan on doing out an additional \$352 next year, a 10 percent increase. Lewis and Clark State College is the second most affected, with a 9.5 percent raise. The University of Idaho student fees will rise by 9.3 percent, and Idaho State University will go up 8.1 percent. The fee raise was the first such governing enacted by the State Board, who was recently enabled by a new Idaho law to charge tuition at public institutions. Previously, money collected from students could not be used for instructional costs. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, however, Idaho's rates are still significantly below both regional and state averages.

FAIR WILL NOT MAKE BOOM-BOOM

Western Idaho Fairgrounds Manager Bob Batista told *BW* this week that this year's fair will not end with a traditional fireworks display. Is the reason fire safety? Finances? Fears over stamped 4-H rabbits spooked by the explosions? No, according to Batista, it's just a matter of scheduling. "We're going to go one extra day this year, to 10 days, so on Sunday, we're going to close a little bit early," Batista said. "It just doesn't make a lot of sense." Batista wouldn't say whether next year's fair would see the return of the closing explosion. Probably not, if the nefarious Rabbit Commission has its way ...

war in Iraq

U.S. CASUALTIES: As of Tuesday, March 15, 1,572 U.S. service members (including 11 Idahoans) have died since the war in Iraq began in March 2003: 1,198 in combat and 374 from non-combat related incidents and accidents. Injured service members total 12,147. In the last week, 18 U.S. soldiers died.

Since President George W. Bush declared "mission accomplished" aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln on May 1, 2003, 1,429 soldiers have died.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Defense

IRAQI CIVILIAN DEATHS: Estimated between 21,239 and 24,106.

Source: www.iraqbodycount.net

COST OF IRAQ WAR: \$165,613,754,809

Source: www.costofwar.com

—Nicholas Collias

NEWS

BY PETER WOLLHEIM

EXILED AT THE CAPITOL
Atheists angered by Capitol steps snub, but fear lawsuit reaction

What state officials call a bureaucratic oversight, Idaho atheists object to as an unconstitutional intrusion of religion into government affairs. But not all Idaho atheists are pleased at the possibility that the State of Idaho over access to the Capitol steps on May 5, nominally the National Day of Prayer (NDP) but an occasion which local nonbelievers would prefer to celebrate as the "Idaho Day of Equality." Some fear a backlash as significant as the massive 1999 "Save Our Cross" demonstration that followed a visiting talk-show host's call for dismantling the Table Rock monument. In the meantime, IAI is still considering its legal options, while national organizations such as American Atheists Inc. and American United for Separation of Church and State may also join the fray.

The controversy originated in February, when Susan Harrington, a founding board member of IAI, decided to reserve the Statehouse's front steps for a rally on behalf of a "Cinco de Mayo Freedom Rally," which for IAI included freedom from religion. Harrington says she was assured by Capitol Mall Facility Services that events are scheduled on a "first-come, first-served" basis, and that her application was in compliance with the required guidelines. Thinking that all was well, Harrington proceeded to book several speakers. On February 22, she called Facility Services and asked to revise the name to "Idaho Day of Equality: Equal Rights for Atheists and Others." The office replied that they would enter the change into the computer themselves.

According to Harrington, Idaho NDP volunteer committee member Jim Hughes telephoned her on March 30 with conciliatory intentions, announcing that the ceremonies had now been moved to the inside of the Capitol. This was confirmed by a second telephone message from Hughes, which reaffirmed his desire to avoid conflict and manage pedestrian traffic congestion. At this point, Harrington still believed that IAI had secured the front outside steps for themselves.

Her perception was shattered by telephone and hard copy messages from Statewide Facilities Manager Tim Mason. Mason informed Harrington that the atheists' event had been relocated to the east stairs of the Capitol, and explained that "due to internal problems with our computer's calendar program" his staff had overlooked the long-standing NDP reservation. Since it "has been a regular event on the south stairs for years, we consider that to be 'first-come, first-serve.'" During a telephone interview with *BW*, Mason reiterated the substance of his letters, and explained that the issue was one of oversight and misunderstanding. Mason emphasized that "it was our mistake. The governor didn't get involved" and that his staff members "weren't even aware of it."

NDP volunteer Jim Hughes backed up Mason's claims. "We didn't ask the governor's office to upstage anyone. We didn't ask anyone to change anything," he told *BW*. But Hughes admitted that "the governor's office offered to help

us straighten this out" once the conflict became apparent. IAI members and the ACLU now question the extent to which Kempthorne or his staff personally interfered on the NDP's behalf.

Harrington believes the switch represents unconstitutional government endorsement of religious faith. Her analysis arises from her previous experience with Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, to whom she has written for over six years. She points out that while Kempthorne has issued official proclamations honoring "Christian Heritage Week" and "Christian History Week," he has refused to do so for either "Atheist Heritage Week" or an "Idaho Day of Reason." Other local atheists recall the questionable legality of a land sale that allowed the Boise Jaycees to erect a lighted cross on property technically owned by the state.

Jack Valkenburg of the ACLU confirms that while Kempthorne's office has rejected Harrington's numerous applications for proclamations as "nonconforming to policy guidelines," the governor has often violated those guidelines in favor of religious and business organizations, while denying conforming proclamations to public health and vegetarian activists. Valkenburg adds, "The state violated its own written policies." Tim Mason now says the Idaho Atheists can't use the main Statehouse steps because the NDP event "has been a standing event for a number of years." But where in the Statehouse use policies is there reference to "standing events" pre-empting others that are calendared in accordance with the written policies?

As far as Mason is concerned, the atheist event remains scheduled in its reassigned venue. Atheists are "being accommodated and not denied anything. I don't think [they] are being singled out or discriminated against. It's just a matter of trying to resolve a scheduling conflict."

In the meantime, the ACLU's Valkenburg estimates the chances that an injunction will restore the IAI claim to the steps as good. "I'm optimistic that would succeed," he says.

Should the atheists decide to hire a private attorney or use the ACLU to request an injunction, Harrington will be identified as an individual plaintiff along with her nonprofit organization. A veteran of the Table Rock incident, she remains anxious over the possibility of personal harassment against her family and herself, and has taken time off work. As the most public figure behind the atheist effort, Harrington recalls, "So many people got so defensive and riled up so quickly" six years ago, and that pattern might repeat itself now. In that case, the basic message—"we are not against religion, we are for atheist civil rights"—will get lost.

Long-standing IAI member Gary Bennett expresses similar concerns that recent coverage of the debate will "become another media-generated crisis that will play right into the hands of the local religious right leaders to get their rabid followers frothing at the mouth." Bennett worries that the threat of an injunction "could lead to the largest turnout yet for the National Day of Prayer," the kind that "threatens with mob rule." **BW**

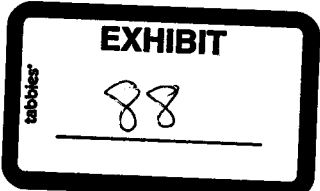


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Prayer, piety and politics: how the National Day of Prayer became a Religious Right platform for opposing church-state separation.

Article from: Church & State Article dated: June 1, 2002 Author: Benen, Steve More results for: national day prayer task force

Shirley Dobson, chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, wanted her audience of over 300 to clearly understand why they had assembled in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., May 2.

"If you've come today to this prayer gathering to hear some well known people, or maybe to meet them, or to just come to an event, you've come to the wrong place," Dobson said. "We are gathered here today with solemn and serious hearts; we've come for the Lord.... We are a hurting nation and we are here to ask for God's forgiveness."

With that, Dobson kicked off the 51st annual observance of the National Day of Prayer (NDP) in the nation's capital. Thousands of state and local events took place nationwide as well.

For supporters of church-state separation, the fact that the NDP even exists as a government-endorsed exercise is troubling. Those concerns were amplified, however, by the bold intermingling of government, politics and religion that dominated this year's activities.

The NDP was established as an annual event by an act of Congress in 1952. Before then, there were occasional instances of official prayer proclamations by Congress and presidents. In 1988, at the behest of the Religious Right, Congress officially set the date as the first Thursday in May.

Over the last decade, a private Religious Right group known as the National Day of Prayer Task Force has effectively taken the lead in organizing and promoting NDP events, and the organization coordinates virtually all of the prayer day activities in Washington, D.C., and around the country. The Task Force claims that it helped set up about 40,000 observances of the NDP this year.

The NDP Task Force is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Religious Right radio broadcaster James Dobson, and operates from the headquarters of his Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Task Force's National Advisory Committee features well-known political and religious figures, including Bill Bright, Chuck Colson, former Christian Coalition President Don Hodel, Kay Cole James, Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio) and former Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.). The list also includes Karen Santorum, Rep. Rick Santorum's (R-Pa.) wife, and Janet Ashcroft, Attorney General John Ashcroft's wife. The group receives no public funds, and is incorporated as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

If the goal of the Task Force was to seize control of the National Day of Prayer to advance a Religious Right message and agenda, it has succeeded. Though the group does not have formal ties with the government, it has assumed a pseudo-official role. This year, for example, a congressional office building served as the venue for the Capitol Hill NDP event and it reflected a fundamentalist Christian bent.

The occasion featured representatives of all three branches of the federal government, a military chaplain to represent the armed forces and the chaplains from the U.S. House and Senate.

Senate Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie, who offered the "prayer of blessing" at the NDP event, drew the ire of First Amendment advocates for his work with the Religious Right group.

Ogilvie, a minister who serves as a pastor to members of the Senate, is a government employee whose salary is financed by taxpayers. (The current federal budget allots \$288,000 to Ogilvie's office.) Nevertheless, Ogilvie wrote a "Prayer For America" for the NDP Task Force this year. Ogilvie's prayer was written to "acknowledge [God's] sovereignty" and asks God to grant "supernatural powers" to the president and Congress. It commits the nation "to be faithful to You as Sovereign of our land and as our personal Lord and Savior."

"We rededicate ourselves to be one nation under You," Ogilvie's prayer says. "In You we trust. We reaffirm our accountability to You, to the absolutes of Your Commandments, and to justice in our society."

Americans United for Separation of Church and State said it's disconcerting that a chaplain, whose Senate work is financed by taxpayers, would presume to write official prayers for the whole country.

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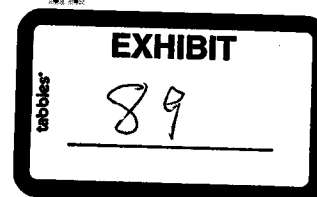
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"It's bad enough that the government is telling people when to pray," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's even worse when a publicly funded minister is telling us what to pray. For anyone who takes the First Amendment seriously, this fusion of religion and government is indefensible."

At the NDP event, Ogilvie offered remarks that reflected little appreciation for separating religion and government.

"Forgive us when we neglect our spiritual heritage as a nation," Ogilvie said. "Help us when we become dulled and forget our accountability to you and the moral absolutes that your Commandments bring. Without absolute righteousness, morality, honesty, integrity and faithfulness, our society operates in a raucous relativism, while the prosperity of our times camouflages the poverty of our soul."

Ogilvie went on to ask God to "wake us up to the realization that all we have as a nation is your gift. That relationship with you is a grateful trust. Make our motto 'In God We Trust' more than a slogan, but a profound expression of our dependence on you to guide and bless this nation."

President George W. Bush also marked the NDP by issuing a White House proclamation. This year's edict, which cites a quotation from the Christian scriptures by St. Paul, calls "upon the Almighty to continue to bless America and her people" and asks Americans to "seek moral and spiritual renewal." It was the fourth time in his 15 months in office that the president has issued an official decree urging Americans to pray.

In addition, Bush hosted an NDP event in the White House the evening of May 2. Bush told an audience of about 200 that "prayer is a vital part of our national life" and that "America is a country of faith."

"Prayer for others is a generous act," Bush said, sounding more like a preacher than a public official. "It sweeps away bitterness and heals old wounds. Prayer leads to greater humility and a more grateful spirit. It strengthens our commitment to things that last and things that matter. It deepens our love for one another." The president also singled out Shirley Dobson to thank her for her Task Force's work, thus offering an official endorsement of the Religious Right group's efforts.

Nationwide, there was intense pressure on public officials to acknowledge the official religious observance. This year, 48 governors issued proclamations to honor the National Day of Prayer. The only two to refrain were Montana Governor Judy Martz (R), who issues no proclamations for any reason, and Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura (I), who said designation of an official prayer day is inconsistent with church-state separation.

In Washington, at the NDP Task Force's Capitol Hill event, a legion of Christian speakers from government and the religious community offered praise for prayer.

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), who offered remarks on behalf of the legislative branch, implored his audience to recognize the importance of religious worship.

"If we're one nation under God, we should be a nation speaking to God," McIntyre said. "Because, after all, when a person prays, it's two people talking who love each other." He asked attendees to "pray that more people will be open to God," and closed his remarks, "In Christ Jesus, God bless you."

The explicitly Christian theme of the NDP Task Force's activities was ubiquitous, but not unexpected. As the group freely admits, events organized by the Task Force are for Christians who share the Religious Right's fundamentalist perspective. While NDP Task Force materials claim "the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans," the group also says its events are exclusively for Christians.

This exclusivity was on display inside the Beltway and at the local level. In Ventura County, Calif., several religious groups have grown frustrated by the exclusively Christian tilt of the annual NDP activities at the county's government center. This year, a local Jewish leader joined with a Muslim leader and several local Christian pastors to host an interfaith event that was designed to bring the community together.

"This is a statement that Ventura County celebrates diversity and that no one religion has the right to dominate the American cultural scene," Rabbi John Sherwood of Oxnard, president of the Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association, told the Los Angeles Times. "The founders of this nation pictured a nation of diversity."

Instead of embracing the spirit of ecumenism, the NDP Task Force's local representatives rejected any part in the interfaith event, opting for a fundamentalist event that took place afterwards.

"In our heart it is to be inclusive," Fawn Parish of Ventura's South Coast Fellowship Church told the Times. "But it's not time to sit down and sing 'Kumbaya.' This is not a conversation day. We believe Jesus is distinctive."

This approach to religious liberty and diversity has led the Religious Right to give praise and encouragement to the NDP Task Force. In addition to Focus on the Family's enthusiastic support, Task Force materials have repeatedly included revisionist history crafted by Religious Right

propagandists. For the 2002 NDP, the Task Force is promoting a statement from Jay Sekulow, head of TV preacher Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, which argues that government promotion of religion is both legal and useful.

Only a few notable Religious Right leaders were on hand for the Capitol Hill gathering, but the movement's viewpoints were well represented.

Though his wife took the lead in hosting the NDP event, James Dobson did step to the dais to welcome attendees and offer some of his ideas about American history.

"This is the 51st annual National Day of Prayer, but National Days of Prayer go all the way back to 1775, when our Founding Fathers recognized that they desperately needed the wisdom of God in designing this country," Dobson said. "We're carrying on that tradition today." (Dobson failed to mention that delegates to the Constitutional Convention met without invocational prayers and ignored a proposal to open their sessions with morning prayers.)

The Religious Right's perspective on religion and government was not without a champion at the May 2 event. The Rev. Gary Bergel, who serves on the NDP Task Force's 23-member "National Prayer Committee," offered attendees the most outwardly political message of the day's speakers. Ultimately, there weren't many issues on the Religious Right's radar screen that Bergel failed to mention.

In a speech that was billed as a "prayer for the legislative branch," Bergel instead went on a tear about culture war issues that serve as red meat for Religious Right activists. He praised the "biblical foundations of our country," before condemning legalized abortion, religiously neutral public schools, lawsuits against state-endorsed Ten Commandments displays and the fact that witnesses are no longer forced to swear on the Bible before testifying in America's courtrooms.

"We gather here in Washington, D.C., assembled by the will of a living God that Jesus Christ has been ordained to be the judge of this land," said Bergel, who is president of Intercessors for America. "He alone is the absolute authority. Jesus desires to lead through judges throughout our land. We thank you, Lord, for the Judeo-Christian foundations of our land. We ask you ... to identify judges who may stray into judicial activism. Convert them or remove them."

Bergel's remarks offered a glimpse of a Religious Right activist with unusual theological views. In materials distributed by Intercessors for America, Bergel has said that he believes Satan is actively involved in spreading superstition in this country in order to cause "revengeful acts of violence." He also has called for an exorcism of the White House because of Nancy Reagan's reliance on astrology and Hillary Clinton's alleged use of "seances and necromancy."

While Bergel spoke on a broad Religious Right agenda, moralist and former Reagan administration Education Secretary Bill Bennett addressed a narrow agenda: bashing America's public schools.

Bennett, in fact, was the only speaker who didn't even mention the role of religion in his life. Instead, to the delight of his audience, he used the occasion of the National Day of Prayer to attack public education.

"The longer you stay in school in America, the dumber you get relative to children in other countries," Bennett said. "And that is a shame and a disgrace."

Bennett also gave praise to the home school movement, which with increasing frequency has families paying for a computer-based curriculum that Bennett himself is selling.

As he does routinely, Bennett also called on political leaders to subsidize religious schools through vouchers, touting "educational choice" and "giving parents the right to educate their child in any environment they see fit."

Bennett and other speakers made repeated references to the role of religion in the founding of the nation, and many asserted that the Founding Fathers approved of official recognition of religion. Ironically, key Founders such as James Madison and Thomas Jefferson thought governmental prayer day proclamations were violations of the constitutional separation of church and state.

Jefferson, the nation's third president and a leading visionary on religious liberty, refused to issue prayer proclamations. Writing to the Rev. Samuel Miller in 1808, he said, "Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the times for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and this right can never be safer than in their own hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."

Madison, widely recognized by historians as the "Father of the Constitution" also considered prayer proclamations to be inappropriate. Although he issued a few while president under political pressure from Congress, he later said such proclamations are inappropriate.

In a collection of writings referred to as the "Detached Memoranda," Madison said religious proclamations by the government "seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion."

For church-state separationists, Madison and Jefferson's words still ring true.

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Benen, Steve. "Prayer, piety and politics: how the National Day of Prayer became a Religious Right platform for opposing church-state separation." *Church & State*. Americans United for Separation of Church and State. 2002. *HighBeam Research*. 5 Aug. 2009 <<http://www.highbeam.com>>.

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Prayer Day Task Force Excludes Non-Christians.

Article from: [Church & State](#) Article Date: [June 1, 1999](#) More results for: [ndp task force](#)

Mormons, Muslims and other religious minorities were not welcome to participate in National Day of Prayer events sponsored by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, materials from the group suggest.

The Task Force, a group affiliated with religious broadcaster James Dobson and other Religious Right leaders, sent out an information packet this year that says every NDP volunteer must be "a Christian who has a personal relationship with Christ."

A statement on increasing church participation by Illinois NDP Coordinator Claudia Dunne included in the packet reads, "[W]e are looking forward to assembling the BODY OF CHRIST so we are covered as to why we haven't invited Mormons, Muslims, etc.... [W]e want everyone to come to the NDP events, but the only people who get to the microphone are those we know have a personal relationship with Christ."

Although the Task Force, based at Dobson's Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs, is a private group, its events dominate the observances of the National Day of Prayer and it often seeks quasi-official status.

The National Day of Prayer was formally approved by Congress in 1952, and in 1988 it was permanently set by Congress as the first Thursday of each May. An NDP event was held May 6 in the U.S. House of Representatives' Cannon Office Building with participation by Senate Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie, U.S. Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.) and other public officials.

Among them was Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the nation's "drug czar," who announced that the federal government will work with religious groups to promote "faith-based initiatives" to combat drug abuse.

Also speaking was Alabama Judge Roy Moore, who achieved national notoriety in 1997 for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments plaque from his courtroom wall and opening jury sessions with Christian prayers. During his remarks, Moore called for official prayer in public schools.

Americans United charged that the National Day of Prayer has been hijacked by Religious Right organizations that are using it to promote their religious political agenda. Task Force materials distributed this year distorted Supreme Court decisions and gave a false impression of U.S. history.

The NDP Task Force often schedules its events at government buildings and seeks endorsements and participation by governors, mayors and other elected officials, thus giving the events the appearance of official sponsorship. Governors in 46 states issued proclamations this year, as did President Bill Clinton.

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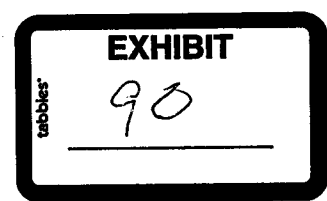


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Press-Telegram Long Beach, CA.; May 6, 2005 ; SHAWNA GAMACHE Religion News Service; 581 words...commemorate the 54th annual National Day of Prayer. "The National Day of Prayer was founded...Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and an evangelical Christian...Some critics say the National Day of Prayer Task ...

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people of many faith traditions calling for an inclusive National Day of

Prayer

FACTS AND TALKING POINTS

HOME

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is controlled by Focus on the Family and allied right-wing Christian evangelical groups.

The chair of the Task Force, Shirley Dobson, is the wife of **Focus on the Family** Chairman James Dobson. According to the **Task Force website**, the group "is housed in the Focus on the Family headquarters for convenience, so long as Mrs. Dobson remains the Chairman." The site says that the business affairs of the two groups are separate, "and Focus on the Family is compensated for services rendered."

FACTS AND TALKING POINTS

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CLIPS FROM 2007 DAY OF PRAYER

2007 REPORT BY JEWSONFIRST.ORG

Organizations listed on the sidebar of the group's **News page** include: Charles Colson's **Prison Fellowship Ministry**; **Samaritan's Purse**, a group run by Franklin Graham who has disparaged Islam; and **Prayer Flight**, which plans to overfly 50 state capitals on May 1st. **Its website says**: "What an awesome thought, to know that individuals are flying overhead while praying for you, your neighbors, schools, government and all aspects of your community. Through our prayers we are beseeching our Lord and Saviour to heal our communities and nation."

In its **school section** the Task Force links itself to "historian" **David Barton**, a leading proponent of the false notion that the United States was founded as a Christian nation.

The National Day of Prayer Task force excludes participation by Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and even moderate evangelical Christians. Although it calls itself "Judeo-Christian," it is explicitly (and narrowly) Christian.

A Task Force **application document** that volunteer coordinators must sign states: "I commit that NDP activities I serve with will be **conducted solely by Christians** while those with differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

The "about" page of the "official" website of the Task Force uses the term "Judeo Christian" a couple of times, but makes clear that the state- and local- level events are fundamentalist Protestant and other faiths are unwelcome. In its **Official Policy Statement on Participation of "Non-Judeo-Christian" groups in the National Day of Prayer**, the group states:

The National Day of Prayer Task Force was a creation of the National Prayer Committee for the expressed purpose of organizing and promoting prayer observances conforming to a Judeo-Christian system of values. People with other theological and philosophical views are, of course, free to organize and participate in activities that are consistent with their own beliefs. This diversity is what Congress intended when it designated the Day of

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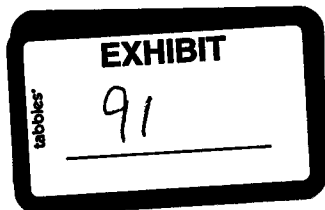
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[National Day of Prayer continues to expand - Cumberland](#)
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[Prayer Day funds decried; Church-state issue cited - WH](#)
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Prayer, not that every faith and creed would be homogenized, but that all who sought to pray for this nation would be encouraged to do so in any way deemed appropriate. It is that broad invitation to the American people that led, in our case, to the creation of the Task Force and the Judeo-Christian principles on which it is based.

Local Task Force coordinators must sign a Christian statement of faith. According to the Task Force's [coordinators website](#), coordinators must include in their application a "**statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ.**" The text of the statement is as follows:

I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God. I believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, the atoning work of his shed blood, his resurrection and ascension, his intercession and his coming return to power and glory. I believe that those who follow Jesus are family and there should be unity among all who claim his name. I agree that these statements are true in my life.

The Christian orientation of the organization is even more explicit on its [fundraising page](#), where it requests support to "bring the name of Christ out from behind church walls and into the public frontlines of all 50 states" and to "[k]eep our Christian faith and religious freedom in the public square."

On [another page](#), the organization in describing the day, states, "Christian leaders address the current year's theme and other areas of interest (i.e. education, youth, families, etc.)."

In a 2005 report on the Task Force, the Texas Freedom Network quoted a similarly exclusionary statement from the Task Force's website: "Our expression of that involvement [in the National Day of Prayer] is specifically limited to the Judeo-Christian heritage and those who share that conviction as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant." The Lausanne Covenant is a 1974 declaration of evangelical Christianity that includes a belief in Biblical inerrancy and Christian exclusivity.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force deliberately fosters the impression that it and its events are official government operations.

For example:

- [On its website](#), the Task Force states that "Dr. Ravi Zacharias will help lead this nation in prayer as the 2008 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer."
- In a [document outlining the duties of its various levels of coordinators](#), the Task Force says that a duty of the state-level coordinator is to "Coordinate an observance at the State Capitol or in the [state capital] city that makes a public statement to the state government officials by being physically at the Capitol building and/or having them participate in the observance."

More facts about the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

"In 2007, approximately 40,000 events were held nationwide. Local volunteers and coordinators held a variety of activities ranging from prayer breakfasts, Bible reading marathons, concerts of prayer, rallies, church prayer vigils, student flagpole gatherings and observances held in sports stadiums."

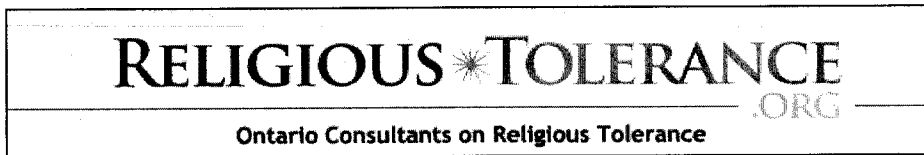
[Click here](#)

The Task Force [offers teachers](#) "some tips to legally integrate prayer into your daily lessons."

The call for an *Inclusive* National Day of Prayer is a project of [JewsOnFirst.org](#).

EXHIBIT 92

- About this site
- About us
- Our beliefs
- Is this your first visit?
- Contact us
- External links
- Good books
- Visitor essays
- Our forum
- New essays
- Other site features
- Buy a CD of this site
- Vital notes



The National Day of Prayer in the USA

Is it for people of all faiths?

Sponsored link.

Get the interactive tools you need to follow the plan completely online.

START TODAY

So you can lose weight at your own pace, on your own time.

WeightWatchers Online
Stop Dieting. Start Living

World religions
BUDDHISM
CHRISTIANITY

- Who is a Christian?
- Shared beliefs
- Handling change
- Bible topics
- Bible inerrancy
- Bible harmony
- Interpret Bible
- Persons
- Beliefs, creeds
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- Revelation, 666

HINDUISM

- ISLAM**
- JUDAISM**
- WICCA / WITCHCRAFT**

- Other religions
- Cults and NRMs
- Comparing religions

Non-theistic...

- Atheism
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About all religions

- Important topics
- Basic information
- Gods & Goddesses
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- Doubt/security
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- Movies
- Confusing terms
- Glossary
- End of the world
- One true religion?
- Seasonal topics
- Science v. Religion
- More info.

National Day of Prayer: an event inclusive of all faiths:

The *National Day of Prayer* was originally intended to be an inter-faith observance. It was to involve monotheistic religions (conservative, mainline and liberal Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Baha'is), as well as followers of the many duotheistic, henotheistic, and polytheistic religions present in the United States (Hindus, some Aborigines, Wiccans, other Neopagans, Zoroastrians, followers of Vodun, Santeria, etc).

Proclamations by President Clinton stressed the inclusiveness of the NDP. In 1998, he referred to Pub. Law 100-307 as honoring "...the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a 'National Day of Prayer.'" ¹ In 1999, President Clinton wrote: "On the Great Plains, American Indians prayed for peace and for blessings upon their children and their friends. The Pilgrims prayed from the moment they first set foot on this continent. Our Nation's founders prayed as they forged a democracy based on freedom and respect for human rights. Our military leaders and the millions of men and women who have served in our Armed Forces have prayed in the midst of every conflict in which our Nation has fought. And so it continues to this day, as Americans of every race, background, and creed pray in churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and their own homes for guidance, wisdom, and courage in confronting the challenges before us." ²

In his annual proclamations, President Bush continues the tradition of referring to the NDP as an observance for persons of all religions. In 2005, he wrote: "Since our Nation's earliest days, prayer has given strength and comfort to Americans of all faiths....I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks each according to his or her own faith, for the liberty and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance and protection." ¹¹

Coordination of Evangelical Christian NDP events by the NDPTF:

The *National Day of Prayer Task Force* (NDPTF) is an Evangelical Christian group who coordinates NDP events which are organized by local conservative Christian groups. Their charter and vision statement are written in inclusive terminology. It could be applied with equal ease to Christian, Jewish, Muslim Sikh events -- in fact to all religions which believe in intercessory prayer. It could be applied to events that were inclusive of all of these religions. Their charter reads:

"The National Day of Prayer Task Force exists to encourage and promote events related to the National Day of Prayer, the first Thursday in May. Every effort is made to provide resources for individuals wishing to participate in or plan events on behalf of our ministry."

"The NDP Task Force will accomplish this goal by:

- Recruiting state, regional and city Coordinators and other volunteers to plan and facilitate local events.
- Providing materials and ideas in support of the Coordinators and other interested citizens promoting the event.
- Coordinating a national media campaign leading up to the day. Planning and leading events in Washington, D.C. on the first Thursday in May.
- Carrying out other activities which focus the attention of every citizen on the need for intercessory prayer for our nation and its leaders." ¹²

Free Samples

Grocery Coupons

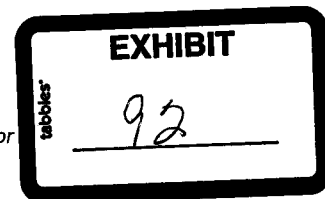
Baby Coupons

Pet Coupons

Diet Coupons

Free Stuff

View All



Spirituality and ethics

Spirituality

Morality and ethics

Absolute truth

The *Task Force's* vision statement is similarly inclusive:

"To communicate with every family the need for personal repentance and prayer, and to mobilize families to personal and corporate prayer, particularly on behalf of the nation and those in leadership on all levels of local, national, church and educational areas of influence."

Peace and conflict

Attaining peace

Religious tolerance

Religious hatred

Religious conflict

Religious violence

In practice: an event exclusively for conservative Christians:

The events coordinated by the NDPTF seems to have become restricted to only Judeo-Christian observances during the late 1990s. During most of the 1990s, there were a few events sponsored by Jewish groups. During and after 1999, none were obvious. The events and the Task Force appear entirely Christian based, with the vast majority from the conservative wing of Christianity.

"Hot" topics

Very hot topics

Ten commandments

Abortion access

Assisted suicide

Cloning

Death penalty

Environment

Equal rights -

gays/bi's

Same-sex marriage

Nudism

Origins of the species

Sex & gender

Sin

Spanking kids

Stem cells

Women-rights

Other topics

- A regional index of events for the 1999 NDP listed 2 events sponsored by United Methodist Churches, one each by a Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Presbyterian congregation. Among the many dozens of events, all of the remainder were either sponsored by Evangelical/Fundamentalist/ Pentecostal groups, or were organized by groups of unknown affiliation. There do not appear to be any events organized by Jewish groups. Event sponsorship by other religions appear to be absent, although some events welcome persons of all faiths to their gathering. ³
- One reference to the *National Prayer Committee* describes it as "a 25-year old non-profit corporation whose members represent a coalition of respected Christian leaders committed to mobilizing united prayer among U.S. Christians." ⁴
- One reference to the *National Day of Prayer Task Force* describes its purpose as "calling America back to God by calling the Church back to prayer." ⁵
- All of the speakers at the 1999 *Concert of Prayer* broadcast appear to have been Evangelical Christians, with the exception of Lloyd Ogilvie, the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. He is a Presbyterian.
- The *Task Force's* FAQ page states: "Americans of all faiths are encouraged to participate in the NDP according to their own traditions. However, the NDP Task Force [only] provides promotional materials and sponsors several events in keeping with the Judeo-Christian tradition." ⁶ In fact, they are not Judeo-Christian; they promote conservative Christianity only.
- The *Task Force's* printed bulletin inserts refers to participants in the NDP "are to be a refuge that attracts the needy; a central point to which those from all walks of life can receive comfort, sustenance and protection as you point them to the all-powerful Savior. Because of Christ's radiance within you, people and situations surrounding you should be changing for the better."
- The *Task Force's* bookmark cites 7 religious texts, all from the Bible. It also recommends that individuals follow "the example of Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:39)"
- No religious text other than the Christian Scriptures (New Testament) have been used to create the yearly theme.
- The NDP "Application for Volunteer Event Coordinator" asks for:
 - A personal testimony "How did you come to know Jesus as your Savior."
 - The "local church or fellowship" that the applicant attends.
 - "Ministries" that the applicant has served in.
 - "Ministries" that I have served in. ⁷

One gets the distinct impression that only conservative Christians need apply for the post.

There are local observances of the NDP which are organized by non-Evangelical Christians, by members of other religions, and by interfaith groups. They are not coordinated by a national group that is similar to the NDPTF.

Laws and news

Religious laws

Religious news

Sponsored link

Religious watches by
Whimsical Watches

Sponsored link:

SWEET

The **sweet**, healthy indulgent snacks you eat from day one.

SEXY

The **sexy** results you get by following the program.

SCIENCE

And the **science** that makes this such a powerful way to lose weight.

get all the plan details free at atkins.com

Ads by Google

Life Changing Prayer

Jesus Christ Loves You. Here is a Prayer That Can Change Your Life
www.Jesus2020.com

Free Catholic Grants Kit

\$15,000 in Free Catholic Grants
Never Repay - Get Your Free Kit Now
Catholic.GrantKit.org

Meet Christian Girls Free

Meet / Chat with Christian Singles
100% Free to Join.
Enjoy Today.
WebSinglez.com/Christi

The Catholic Church & the

Truth About What Happened to the Catholic Church after Vatican II
www.mostholylfamilymon

Reaction to the exclusivity of the NDP:


Americans United for Separation of Church and State complained in a 1999 news release that "The *ar. National Day of Prayer has been hijacked by Religious Right organizations that are using it to promote their religious political agenda.*"^{8,9} Conservative Christian organizations have certainly been active in promoting the NDP. However, they have not hijacked the NDP in the usual sense of that word. There is absolutely nothing to prevent another group from following the original intent of the NDP by organizing a series of inclusive events on the same date - events that would welcome and encourage the participation of all theistic religions, from Asatru to Zoroastrianism, including Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Wicca, as well as conservative, mainline and liberal Christianity.

A 1999-APR *Americans United* news release stated that: "Task Force materials distributed this year exclude Mormons, Muslims and other minority faiths, distort Supreme Court decisions and give a false impression of U.S. history." Executive director Barry Lynn, a *United Church of Christ* minister, said: "They're using the National Day of Prayer to promote bad history, bad law and bad interfaith relations." Some examples which Lynn has extracted from the Task Force's materials allegedly are:

- Local organizers need not allow non-Judeo-Christian groups to participate. The NDP material states that other faiths can set up their own separate events.
- NDP material requires each NDP volunteer "must be a Christian who has a personal relationship with Christ." Access "to the microphone" should be restricted to church leaders who believe in "salvation by grace alone" and who also "have a personal relationship with Christ."
- An NDP sample letter that local groups can use to invite religious leaders to events states: "[W]e are looking forward to assembling the BODY OF CHRIST so we are covered as to why we haven't invited Mormons, Muslims, etc. It is a big chore to get all of the Christians together and our goal is just that." (The term "Christians" appears to refer to Fundamentalist and other Evangelical Christians only.)
- The material includes quotations:
 - by James Madison about the 10 Commandments which is apparently an ancient fake, having been debunked by scholars.
 - from a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision that is allegedly completely fabricated.

References:

The following information sources were used to prepare and update the above essay. The hyperlinks are not necessarily still active today.

1. NDP Proclamation, 1998, at: <http://ndptexas.com/>
2. "A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America," 1995-MAY-5, at: <http://www.ndptf.org/>
3. "Regional list of prayer events," Prayer for America, at: <http://www.lesea.com/>
4. "The three greatest hours of broadcasting!", at: <http://www.crosswalk.com/>
5. "Welcome to the North Texas National Day of Prayer," at: <http://ndptexas.com/>
6. National Day of Prayer Task Force is at:
 - Telephone: (719) 531-3379
 - Web site: <http://www.ndptf.org/> and <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>
 - FAQ page: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>
7. "Application for Volunteer Event Coordinator," at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>. You need software to read these files. It can be obtained free from:  DOWNLOAD ADOBE ACROBAT READER
8. News release, "Americans United for Separation of Church and State," 1999-APR-28
9. Americans United for Separation of Church and State has a home page at: <http://www.au.org>
10. "The National day of Prayer: Vision / Charter Statement," NDP Task Force, at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>
11. George W. Bush, "National Day of Prayer, 2005: A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America," 2005-MAY-03, at: <http://ndptf.org/>
12. The charter and vision statement of the NDPTF is available at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

Site navigation:

Home > Christianity > Christian history, etc > Prayer > NDP > here
 Home > Christianity > History, beliefs... > Practices > Prayer > NDP > here
 or Home > Spiritual topics > NDP > here
 or Home > Religious information > NDP > here

Most recent update: 2005-MAY-16
Author: B.A. Robinson



Go [back](#) to the previous page, or to [the National Day of Prayer menu](#), or choose:

Google

Web ReligiousTolerance.org

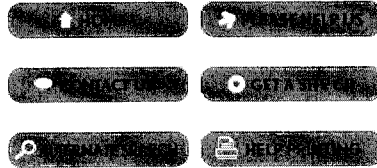


EXHIBIT 93

National Day of Prayer

from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **National Day of Prayer** is a day designated by the United States Congress as a day when people are asked to come together and pray, especially for their country. It was created as a floating holiday in 1952 and fixed on the first Thursday in May by Ronald Reagan.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 National Day of Prayer Task Force
- 3 Controversy
- 4 See also
- 5 References
- 6 External links

History

There have been several national days of prayer in the U.S. before the day was made official in 1952. The Continental Congress issued a day of prayer in 1775 to designate "a time for prayer in forming a new nation." During the Quasi-War with France, President John Adams declared May 9, 1798 as "a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer," during which citizens of all faiths were asked to pray "that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it".^[1]

On March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the following proclamation:

By the President of the United States of America.

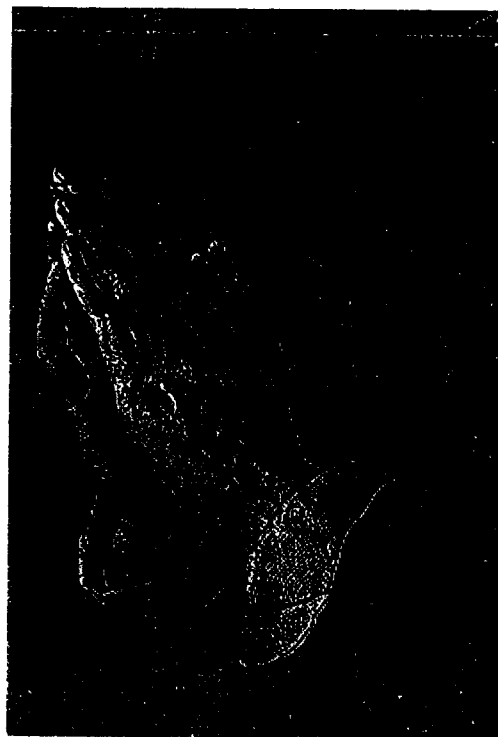
A Proclamation.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

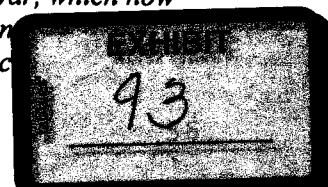
And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins? Will the end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the c

National Day of Prayer



Observed by	The United States of America
Date	First Thursday in May
2009 date	May 7



of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty seventh.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward, Secretary of State^[2]

More recently, the idea of an annual National Day of Prayer was introduced by the Rev. Billy Graham, who suggested it in the midst of a several-weeks crusade in the nation's capitol. Members of the House and Senate introduced a joint resolution for an annual National Day of Prayer, "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."

Senator Robertson called the resolution a measure against "the corrosive forces of communism which seek simultaneously to destroy our democratic way of life and the faith in an Almighty God on which it is based."^[3]

A Senate report mistakenly claims as part of the rationale for the law that prayers were conducted at the Constitutional Convention, which adopted the U.S. Constitution: "When the delegates to the Constitutional Convention encountered difficulties in the writing and formation of a Constitution for this Nation, prayer was suggested and became an established practice at succeeding sessions," according to the report by the Committee on the Judiciary.

However, Benjamin Franklin suggested prayer, but in his own notes recorded that the convention, "except for three or four persons, thought prayers unnecessary." His suggestion to pray was met politely but with some embarrassment, scholars note, and delegates quickly adjourned.^[4]

On April 17, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming a National Day of Prayer must be declared by each following president at an appropriate date of his choice. In 1982 a National Prayer Committee formed to coordinate and implement a fixed commemorated day of prayer. In 1988, President

Ronald Reagan amended the law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May. A claimed intention of the National Day of Prayer was that it would be a day when members of all faiths could pray together in their own way.

National Day of Prayer Task Force

The National Prayer Committee created a non-governmental organization called The National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events specifically for evangelical Christians for the National Day of Prayer. Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, they work out of facilities from Focus on the Family, a Christian organization. Shirley Dobson (wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson) is currently at the head of the Task Force.

The Task force's website says in their FAQ section: *"Americans of all faiths are encouraged to participate in the [National Day of Prayer] according to their own traditions. However, the [National Day of Prayer] Task Force provides promotional materials and sponsors several events in keeping with the Judeo-Christian tradition"*. The 2008 application^[5] requires giving statement affirming Biblical Inerrancy, and requires volunteers *"commit that NDP activities I serve with will be conducted solely by Christians"*. A previous application for volunteer coordinators with the Task Force lists the following as a primary qualification, *"Commitment to Christ. A volunteer must be an evangelical Christian who has a personal relationship with Christ. I acknowledge that I am working for the Lord Jesus Christ and the furthering of His Work on earth and agree to perform my work with the highest standard of Christian faith."*

Controversy

Issues of government involvement with religion are often disputed because of the Establishment clause in the First Amendment. While the free-exercise clause allows for this type of event to be organized by non-governmental bodies, the U.S. Congress may not pass any laws enforcing religious observances.^[6]

The contention was brought to attention by one of the Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson. On January 23, 1808 he wrote on the topic:

“ Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it. ...civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States and **no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents.**”^[7] ”

In 1822, James Madison wrote:

“ There has been another deviation from the strict principle in the Executive Proclamations of fasts & festivals, so far, at least, as they have spoken the language of injunction, or have lost sight of the equality of all religious sects in the eye of the Constitution. Whilst I was honored with the Executive Trust I found it necessary on more than one occasion to follow the example of predecessors. But I was always careful to make the Proclamations **absolutely indiscriminate, and merely recommendatory**; or rather mere designations of a day, on which all who thought proper might unite in consecrating it to religious purposes, according to their own faith & forms. In this sense, I presume you reserve to the

Govt. a right to appoint particular days for religious worship throughout the State, without any penal sanction enforcing the worship."^[8] ”

George W. Bush made a point of holding events on the National Day of Prayer in each year of his presidency. However, Bill Clinton did not hold any such events during his time in office, and George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan each hosted special events for the day only once during their respective administrations.

Those opposed to a national day of prayer have established another observance that coincides with the National Day of Prayer called the National Day of Reason. Groups such as the NYC Atheists have organized blood donations on the same day.^[9]

In 2004, Mormons were barred from conducting services during National Day of Prayer ceremonies by the group's task force chairwoman, Shirley Dobson. ^[10]

In 2008, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, on October 3, 2008 sued President George W. Bush, Jim Doyle, Shirley Dobson, chair, National Day of Prayer Task Force, and White House Press Secretary Dana Perino at a Madison, Wisconsin federal court, challenging the federal law designating the National Day of Prayer.^{[11][12]} The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), a conservative non-profit legal organization, is defending Shirley Dobson and the National Day of Prayer Task Force free of charge against the Freedom From Religion Foundation lawsuit. In February 2009, the website SaveTheNDOP.org was launched for supporters of the National Day of Prayer to voice their opposition to the lawsuit. The Obama administration asked U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to dismiss the case in March 2009. The administration argued the group has no legal standing to sue and that the tradition of the National Day of Prayer dated back to 1775, despite the fact Congress created it in 1952.^[13] The suit was then amended to include President Obama and Press Secretary Gibbs. Subsequently, President Obama did not hold a formal event for the NDOP on May 7, 2009.

See also

- Day of Prayer
- National Day of Reason

References

1. ^ John Adams, "A Proclamation," March 23, 1798; printed in the *Philadelphia Weekly Magazine*, March 31, 1798.
2. ^ Expanded from the version sent by the US Senate: *Journal of the Senate*, March 2, 1863 *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875*, The Library of Congress
3. ^ The Pluralism Project at Harvard University :America's National Day of Prayer (2006)
4. ^ Richard V. Pierard, "Standing the Founding Fathers on Their Heads", *Christian Century*, April 20, 1983, pp. 368-372 (on-line text).
5. ^ <http://www.ndptf.org/profile/profile.cfm>, retrieved October 4, 2008; quotes are only shown after the "Become a Coordinator" radio button is set to "Yes".
6. ^ http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/First_amendment
7. ^ Letter to the Reverend Samuel Miller.
8. ^ Letter to Edward Livingston, July 10, 1822
9. ^ <http://www.nyc-atheists.org>
10. ^ Deseret News, Prayers without LDS hit a nerve, 5 May 2004 (accessed May 2009)

11. ^ ap.google.com, Atheist group sues Bush over national prayer day
12. ^ wtte28.com, Atheist group sues Bush over national prayer day
13. ^ <http://www.ffrf.org/news/2009/NDPcaseproceeds.php>

External links

- [Religious Tolerance.org's section of the National Day of Prayer](#)
- [National Day of Prayer Task Force website](#)
- [Save the National Day of Prayer website](#)
- [Alliance Defense Fund website](#)
- [Freedom From Religion Foundation website](#)
- [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#)
- [NowPraying.com Join the world in prayer](#)
- [Stop, Drop & Pray](#)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Day_of_Prayer"

Categories: [Religion in the United States](#) | [United States federal legislation](#) | [Prayer](#) | [May observances](#) | [Religious holidays](#) | [Christian holidays](#) | [1952 establishments](#)

Hidden categories: [NPOV disputes from May 2009](#) | [All articles with unsourced statements](#) | [Articles with unsourced statements from May 2008](#) | [Articles with unsourced statements from June 2009](#) | [All pages needing cleanup](#) | [Articles with unsourced statements from May 2009](#)

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EXHIBIT 94

THE PLURALISM PROJECT
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HOME

RESEARCH REPORT

WHAT IS PLURALISM?

America's National Day of Prayer (2006)

ABOUT THE PROJECT >

Interfaith

PEOPLE >

On May 4, 2006, Americans across the nation came together to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. The first Thursday in May was marked by Congress in 1952 as a date to "turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals." (1) Some ceremonies were held in public civic places, others in churches as community gatherings; some included many faiths, and others restricted public prayers to Christian voices alone. As a variety of people offered their prayers and reflections, a debate within religious America over the nature of this day continued.

CURRENT INITIATIVES >

NEWS SERVICE >

ONLINE RESOURCES >

OUR RESEARCH >

Historical Foundations

MULTIMEDIA >

Although days of prayer and reflection have been named by Congress and the President for many years, in most cases these involved a particular event, such as celebrating the end of the Revolutionary War or prayers for peace during wartime. The Continental Congress asked for guidance in forming a nation in 1775; in 1863, President Lincoln sought a day of "fasting and prayer" during the Civil War (2); and during World War II, President Roosevelt led Christians in prayer during his radio addresses. (3)

FIND RELIGIOUS CENTERS >

AMERICA'S MANY RELIGIONS >

EVENTS >

However, presidents have disagreed on the desirability of national days of prayer: Thomas Jefferson, in an 1808 letter to the Reverend Samuel Miller, wrote "'Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it.'" (3a) In James Madison's 1817 Detached Memoranda, he expressed doubts about national days of prayer, as "they seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion."

SELECTED LINKS >

CONTRIBUTE >

SEARCH

In 1952, following a six-week prayer campaign in Washington, DC led by Billy Graham (3b) members of the House and Senate introduced a joint resolution for a yearly National Day of Prayer. "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals." (3c) Rep. Percy Priest called for a proclamation of "a day which members of all faiths and all religions could spend in meditation and prayer." (3b) Senator Robertson saw the resolution as a measure against "the corrosive forces of communism which seek simultaneously to destroy our democratic way of life and the faith in an Almighty God on which it is based." (3b) In 1952, President Truman signed into law an act officially establishing a National Day of Prayer. These days varied from year to year, as each president proclaimed a different date; President Eisenhower, for example, named July 4, 1953. (3d)

In 1988, Congress amended the resolution to name a recurring date of the first Thursday in May. The resolution was signed into law by President Reagan, and subsequent presidents have offered non-sectarian proclamations on the National Day of Prayer:

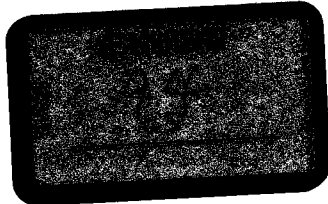
"In every city, town, and rural community across our country, people of every religious denomination gather to worship according to their faith. In churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, Americans come together to pray."--President Bill Clinton, 1998. (2)

"The Congress... has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a 'National Day of Prayer.'"--President George W. Bush, 2002. (3a)

Interfaith Celebrations of the National Day of Prayer in 2005

In response to this call, many groups have organized public gatherings. Several of these have been notable for their inclusion of many faiths. Tulsa, Oklahoma featured several events on May 5, 2005, from a prayer breakfast at the United Methodist Church to prison ministry at the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center. A noon service included leaders from seven faith communities □ Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Islamic, and Native American □ and was attended by the mayor of Tulsa. Prayers for peace and compassion were offered, and the service celebrated both the shared experiences between human beings and the differences between faith traditions. (4)

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in Redlands, California on the same day was organized by the Redlands Area Interfaith Council. Catholics, Protestants, evangelical Christians, Jews, Baha'is and members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints asked for blessings "on government leaders, the community, and the world." Prayers mentioned the importance of Holocaust Remembrance Day (also May 5th), the understanding to accept our differences, and a hope for a city in which "everyone has a home, no one is hungry, and neighbors help each other."(6)



In Oklahoma City, 150 people attended a similar ceremony outside the Capitol building, including Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Pagan, and atheist leaders. Attendees spoke on the virtues of religious freedom and tolerance; Stephanie Urquhardt of the Military Pagan Network remarked, "This is how we create a world of beneficence and creativity."(5)

The National Day of Prayer Task Force

Prayers on the same day offered at events supported by the National Day of Prayer Task Force were similar in intent, offering hope for peace, compassion, and wisdom for our leaders. However, these events were different in a very important way: only Christians were welcome to speak, and only Christians who agreed to a particular evangelical view of Christianity were able to volunteer as coordinators. (2)

A [research report](#) (2) by the [Texas Faith Network](#) (7) investigates the National Day of Prayer Task Force. According to their report, the Task Force was founded in 1988 to "encourage and promote events related to the National Day of Prayer." It is a private non-profit organization that recruits volunteers on local and regional levels as well as planning events in Washington, D.C. It maintains close ties with Focus on the Family, a conservative evangelical Christian organization; the Task Force's headquarters are within Focus on the Family offices in Colorado, and the Task Force is chaired by Shirley Dobson, wife of the founder of Focus on the Family. (2)

Events sponsored by the Task Force are "specifically limited to the Judeo-Christian heritage and those who share that conviction as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant." (8) The [Lausanne Covenant](#) expresses a specifically evangelical Christianity, which may not be compatible with the beliefs of Catholics and many non-evangelical Protestants: for example, salvation is not to be found without Christ, and the Bible is regarded as infallible. (16) Those who are not members of this tradition are welcome to attend events, but will not be allowed to speak. The Texas Faith Network concludes that the designation of Task Force events as "Judeo-Christian" is "a disingenuous claim", given that the Lausanne Covenant focuses on redemption through Christ alone, and thus does not include Jewish beliefs. (2)

The Texas Faith Network's research shows how the National Day of Prayer Task Force interprets the general term of "prayer" as specifically Christian invocations; likewise, their version of Christianity is tied to a particular political outlook. The "Freedom Five", a list of topics to pray for, includes mention of bringing schools "back to basics" (8), and halting "condom distribution, the promotion of homosexuality." (2) A report on the Task Force's website, "[School Prayer Event Guide](#)," laments the Supreme Court decision to remove public prayer in schools and links that decision to declines in student performance, violent crime, and unstable families. (9) Christianity is depicted as identical to a culturally conservative outlook.

Concern about the role of the Task Force is not new. For several years, [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#) has issued [press releases](#) regarding the National Day of Prayer Task Force, describing its links with Focus on the Family and its blurring of the line between governmental organization and religious institution. (18) In 2002, Americans United released a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) brochure about the National Day of Prayer (19), and their website includes a [Media Background](#) document. (20)

Although the Task Force is a private non-profit and not a governmental organization, its publications and press releases constantly blur this distinction. An annual official theme and honorary chairperson are chosen each year (for 2006, the theme is "America, Honor God") (8), and press releases are "marketed to the media, as well as state governments and local municipalities." (2) Press releases on the National Day of Prayer move freely from discussing the history of the Day of Prayer to announcing the 'official' theme and chairman, without mention of the non-profit, sectarian, and non-governmental nature of the Task Force. (2) A press statement regarding Hurricane Katrina has the same omission, and includes a paragraph about the Congressional establishment of the National Day of Prayer directly after a call to pray together. (10) The report of the Texas Faith Network concludes that this deliberate, and false, conflation of government approval and private initiative effectively "brands the National Day of Prayer Task Force as the de facto national sponsor", making a day of many prayers into a sectarian-sponsored event. (2)

When Pluralism and Exclusivism Collide

Conflicts have arisen over exclusive sectarian interpretations of the National Day of Prayer. In Muncie, IN, a 2003 celebration of the National Day of Prayer fractured into two different events when the organizers disagreed over whether the event would involve multiple faiths or only conservative Christians. Both events took place at City Hall; both were attended by the mayor. (11)

In 2005, the Plano, Texas National Day of Prayer event was radically different from the previous two years. The Collin County Interfaith Group, which includes Hindu, Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian representatives, had planned events in 2003 and 2004. Local National Day of Prayer Task Force volunteers took control of the 2005 service, and only Christians were invited to participate. (12)

Troy, Michigan, became in 2005 the site of a legal battleground over what a National Day of Prayer service should be. The city's National Day of Prayer had been organized by the National Day of Prayer Task Force and held on the plaza in front of City Hall for nearly ten years. In 2004, Mayor Louise Schilling had asked Ms. Padma Kuppa, an Indian-born US citizen, to give a Hindu prayer during her introduction of the event; the Task Force objected. The next year, once again Ms. Kuppa contacted the coordinator of the Task Force event in Troy personally and requested that other faith communities be represented. The coordinator refused, and asked the City Council to recognize the Task Force event as an exclusively Judeo-Christian

observance. (13)

With the help of the local branch of the National Council for Community and Justice, Ms. Kuppa was put in touch with local faith leaders. Together, this Troy Interfaith Group worked to propose a different, multi-faith event for the same day. (13) The rabbi from Troy's only Jewish congregation, Shir Tikvah, joined the planning for the interfaith celebration, turning the Task Force event into a Christian rather than Judeo-Christian observance. (17) Mayor Schilling opposed the use of City Hall facilities for the Task Force's Christian-only event. The Task Force consulted with lawyers and protested that their rights to free speech and free exercise of religion were being abridged. The City Council voted to allow the Task Force's event, but also suggested that the Interfaith Group meet at the same location an hour earlier. (13) The Interfaith Group declined, and rescinded their request to use city property, saying it would be appropriate to meet elsewhere for a religious purpose. (14)

Thus, on May 5, 2005, both groups celebrated the National Day of Prayer, drawing about 250 people each. (13) At noon, the Task Force-sponsored group met at City Hall, featuring "speakers in alignment with our faith", according to the coordinator. (14) The Troy Interfaith Group met that evening; after a Muslim call to prayer, presenters read prayers for the nation, verses on kinship and the golden rule, and sang, among other selections, "God Bless America" and "We Shall Overcome." (15) *Religious Diversity News* articles on the Troy National Day of Prayer celebrations can be found [here](#).

Differing Visions

Two different visions of religious America collide on the National Day of Prayer. One reflects a vision of America as solely a Christian country, and supports a politicized version of conservative evangelical Christianity. This religious America is founded on these Christian prayers, and seeks to strengthen the nation through emphasizing one version of its majority faith.

The other vision of America recognizes that our religious landscape contains far more than a single interpretation of Christianity, and that this diversity is in itself a strength. At these events, people are not asked to set aside their different faiths, but rather to draw on each one's beliefs, bringing all the varied prayers for compassion, peace, and dreams of a better world together.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is correct that "a particular expression of [the National Day of Prayer] can be defined by those who choose to organize it." (8) The freedom of every group to gather and pray publicly must be upheld; to do otherwise is to deny the freedom of free exercise of religion in America. The organizers of a National Day of Prayer event are free to hold a ceremony that does not contradict their beliefs.

On one hand, such a ceremony might be a celebration of a single faith, and a single political outlook within that faith. On the other, celebrations of the National Day of Prayer could reflect both the America that exists with multiple faiths and many opinions within each faith and a hope for an America in the future: inclusive and accepting of different faiths, bringing many voices together in celebration and communion. The first Thursday in May will continue to reflect these different visions as the tension between exclusivity and religious freedom is negotiated.

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Interfaith groups seeking to plan an event will find useful resources in our [Online Interfaith Resource Guides](#).

This report was written by Research Associate Emily Ronald under the supervision of Managing Director Grove Harris.

Prepared by Student Researcher Emily Ronald
Updated on October 18, 2007

To contact the Pluralism Project, email staff@pluralism.org. Please write to us with suggestions about new books, articles, or sites to include, with announcements of conferences or special events, or with corrections.

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EXHIBIT 95

DISTRICT COURT,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO
1437 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80202

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION, INC.,
MIKE SMITH,
DAVID HABECKER,
TIMOTHY G. BAILEY and
JEFF BAYSINGER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BILL RITTER, JR., in his official capacity as
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, and
THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendants.

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

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Case Number: 08CV9799

Courtroom: 19

**PLAINTIFF MIKE SMITH'S RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS'
FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES AND FIRST REQUEST
FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**



Plaintiff Mike Smith responds and/or objects to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and First Request for Production of Documents as follows:

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

The following general objections apply to the entirety of Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents.

General Objection No. 1: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information beyond the scope of discovery, or otherwise purports to impose discovery or procedural obligations upon Plaintiffs greater than those set forth in the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

General Objection No. 2: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information which is protected from disclosure by: (a) the attorney-client privilege; (b) the work-product doctrine; and/or (c) any other privileges or immunities. Any inadvertent disclosure of information shall not be deemed a waiver or impairment of Plaintiffs' right to assert the applicability of any privilege or immunity to the information.

General Objection No. 3: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive.

General Objection No. 4: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as unduly burdensome, oppressive and beyond the scope of discovery to the extent it seeks information already within the possession and control of Defendants or their counsel, or to the extent it seeks information that is equally available or readily ascertainable from public sources or sources of information hosted by, or accessible by, Defendants.

General Objection No. 5: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as overly broad, unduly burdensome, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent a particular request does not contain a time period limitation or is not appropriately limited to seek information relevant to the claims alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint.

General Objection No. 6: Plaintiffs' responses and objections to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs are based upon information currently known and available to them. Plaintiffs have not yet completed their investigation of the facts pertaining to this matter, and preparations for trial are ongoing. Plaintiffs, therefore, reserve their rights to amend, modify, or supplement the objections or responses stated herein, and to use subsequently discovered documents or other information and documents or other

information known but whose relevance, significance, or applicability has not yet been ascertained.

INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY 1: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer HP on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: The plaintiffs rely upon at least the Prayer Proclamations from 2004-2009.

INTERROGATORY 2: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer "dedication" (as opposed to any HP) on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff relies upon at least the Day of Prayer celebration on May 4, 2007, in which Governor Ritter participated, as well as the Celebration in 2008. Governor Ritter also has participated in the Colorado Prayer Luncheon, including on May 22, 2008. This answer further may be supplemented as additional discovery is forthcoming from the defendants. The plaintiff further notes that the term "dedication" is ambiguous as to what information the defendants are seeking, but each declared "Colorado Day of Prayer" is itself deemed a dedicated and objectionable endorsement of religion, on a day designated for that sole purpose.

INTERROGATORY 3: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP prevented each plaintiff from exercising his or its right to non-belief.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not claim to have been coercively prevented from exercising his right to non-belief. The plaintiff does contend that the annual declaration of

a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement.

INTERROGATORY 4: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP affected each plaintiff's political status in the state of Colorado.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff complains herein that annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of elevating and endorsing religion as a solution to social problems, while encouraging all persons to believe in God, and thereby giving the appearance that belief is preferable and that believers have special access to government leaders, including the Governor.

INTERROGATORY 5: State whether or not each plaintiff has attended or participated in any day of prayer event in Colorado or any NDP event, and identify the date, time, and the actions each plaintiff took at such events, including but not limited to, whether any plaintiff was prevented from taking any action he or it wanted to take at such event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff has not attended or participated in Colorado Day of Prayer or NDP events, as to which he objects. The Governor's encouragement through annual proclamations that all citizens of Colorado should actively participate in such events, however, puts the plaintiff in the position of either violating his own freedom of conscience or being excluded from events touted by the Governor.

INTERROGATORY 6: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor or any other state official in any way affected or took any other action with regard to any plaintiff who did not attend or participate in the events referenced in the above paragraph.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that the Governor's annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" are accompanied by coerced belief or participation in prayer events. The plaintiff does complain, however, that the Governor's annual proclamations give the appearance of religious endorsement by elevating religion as a supposed solution to problems, and by encouraging all citizens of Colorado to believe in a God. The plaintiff considers that such encouragement of all citizens to believe in a God violates his freedom of conscience by telling citizens that religion is the solution that should be endorsed.

INTERROGATORY 7: Identify how each plaintiff learned about or was exposed or subjected to the HP, including but not limited to, any coercion that caused him or it to be so exposed.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff is aware of annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor through extensive media coverage, including on the internet, print media and visual coverage. The Governor's proclamations, moreover, are not issued secretly; they are intended to be broadcast and made known to the citizens of Colorado, including the plaintiff.

INTERROGATORY 8: Identify what items in the state's budget relate to any allegation in the complaint, including but not limited to, the expenditure of tax monies.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that any line item in the State's budget is specific to the declaration of Days of Prayer. The plaintiff notes, however, that the participation of Governor Ritter in Day of Prayer celebrations does involve the use of paid State personnel, including the Governor and his security.

INTERROGATORY 9: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning the governor's alignment or association with Reign Down USA.

RESPONSE: Sources on the internet report that Governor Ritter proclaimed April 26, 2008 to be a Day of Prayer in Colorado, in conjunction with an event sponsored by Reign Down USA.

INTERROGATORY 10: Identify the exact language and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that language in the HPs constitutes an exhortation or exhortations to pray.

RESPONSE: The issuance of proclamations declaring an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" are issued for the purpose of encouraging all citizens to actively pray. All of the proclamations, in their entirety, therefore, implicitly are part of the appearance of the exhortation to pray. Each of the proclamations between 2004-2009, moreover, included specific language indicating that on the National Day of Prayer, "Americans will unite in prayer for our Nation, our State, our leaders and our people." Recognizing the National Day of Prayer as a day on which "Americans will unite in prayer," moreover, the Governor in each proclamation then proceeds to proclaim a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER" on the same day as the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 11: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor made "related pronouncements endorsing prayer."

RESPONSE: Governor Ritter has publicly participated in Day of Prayer celebrations at the Capitol, including in 2007 and 2008. The Governor has also participated in prayer luncheon celebrations of religion, including in 2008. Discovery is still proceeding, moreover, and further evidence of such pronouncements may be forthcoming.

INTERROGATORY 12: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there were approximately 70 events held in Colorado to commemorate the

May 1, 2009 NDP and CDP, including whether the plaintiff attended these events, and how he or it were coerced to attend these events. If plaintiff failed to attend any of these events, describe any and all results or effects on his or its lives and activities, including their status as Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend specifically that 70 events were held in Colorado to commemorate the 2009 NDP and CDP, but is aware that many such events were held in 2009, as occurs on an annual basis. On May 4, 2007, moreover, Gene Torkelson, of the Rocky Mountain News, reported that more than 70 National Day of Prayer events were held in Colorado in 2007. The plaintiff has not attended such events, to which he objects, nor does the plaintiff claim that he was coerced to attend such events. The plaintiff does contend, however, that the Governor's declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement by the government, as described in earlier interrogatory responses.

INTERROGATORY 13: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation concerning any and all contacts between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, writes to each governor, including the Governor of Colorado, requesting each governor to issue a Day of Prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer celebration. At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued such proclamations, including proclamations in 2004-2008, that specifically included the National Day of Prayer Task Force annual theme and/or biblical reference. Mrs. Dobson, in her letters to

the governors, identifies the NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference for each year, which the Governor of Colorado has regularly included into his Day of Prayer proclamations, at least since 2004. In 2009, however, after the commencement of this lawsuit, Governor Ritter issued a prayer proclamation but did not include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 14: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there was any and all joint action between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the NDP Task Force, has written to the Governor of Colorado, as well as the governors of all other states, on an annual basis, requesting each governor to issue a prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer. Mrs. Dobson identifies the annual NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference in her letters to the governors. In at least 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference. Only in 2009, during the pendency of the present action, did the Governor decide not to include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 15: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that governors of the 50 states proclaimed days of prayer in 2007, 2008, and 2009, as well as those who did not, if any.

RESPONSE: The State prayer proclamations from 2004-2009 will be produced.

INTERROGATORY 16: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the proclamations specified in the above paragraph included references to

the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or supporting scripture.

RESPONSE: See answer to Interrogatory No. 15.

INTERROGATORY 17: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has embraced the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In proclamations issued in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference, as requested by Mrs. Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 18: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has or is working hand-in-glove with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In at least the annual prayer proclamations issued by the Governor in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual prayer proclamations, as requested by Mrs. Dobson. No governor has incorporated an annual theme or scriptural reference that was not suggested by the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

INTERROGATORY 19: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has a collaborative relationship with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 20: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses the religious principles of the NDP Task Force, and/or

Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual proclamations. The Governor of Colorado has not included annual themes or scriptural references promulgated by other religious groups; he has included only the scriptural references identified on an annual basis by the NDP Task Force, which are readily identifiable as being of biblical origin, according to Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 21: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses religion in violation of the Colorado Constitution.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in National Day of Prayer ceremonies publicly held, including on the Capitol steps in 2007. Governor Ritter has also participated in annual Colorado Prayer Luncheons, including in 2008. The Governor's participation in Day of Prayer activities, including by issuing annual proclamations in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, gives at least the appearance of religious endorsement by the Governor, including because the National Day of Prayer itself is a day dedicated toward promoting prayer for its own sake. The Governor's actions in giving the appearance of supporting or preferring prayer are alleged to violate the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 22: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor supports an indelible bond between church and state.

RESPONSE: The issuance of annual Day of Prayer proclamations, at least since

2004, gives the appearance of State support for religion. This appearance is emphasized, such as in the proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by the express inclusion of annual themes and scriptural references promoted by the NDP Task Force, an avowedly evangelical Christian organization.

INTERROGATORY 23: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses public celebration of religion by public officials, particularly as distinguished from freedom of religion.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving said objection, the plaintiff relies on the fact that the Governor of Colorado has issued public proclamations declaring an annual Day of Prayer since at least 2004. The prayer proclamations give the appearance of endorsing religion; in fact they include an annual theme and scriptural reference in each proclamation issued in 2004-2008, as set forth and chosen by the NDP Task Force. The issuance of public proclamations constitute a celebration of religion by public officials. In addition, Governor Ritter has openly participated in such public celebrations, including in 2007 and 2008, when he participated in celebrations of the National Day of Prayer. Governor Ritter has also participated in Colorado Prayer Luncheons, such as in 2008, which further give the appearance of public celebration of religion. The distinction between celebration of religion and "freedom of religion," moreover, is unclear in this question, particularly as private speech endorsing religion is protected, but government speech endorsing or preferring religion is not permissible under the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 24: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the words or phrases in the HPs convey to non-religious Americans that they

are expected to believe in God.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that the government views religion as the solution to social problems and, therefore, elevates religion to the status of generally accepted dogma to which all citizens are encouraged to believe, including belief in a God. The plaintiff, in particular, is a non-believer who perceives the annual prayer proclamations to be an encouragement for him and others to believe in a God, which encouragement from the government violates the plaintiff's own freedom of conscience.

INTERROGATORY 25: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor prefers religion over non-religion for all Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor gives the appearance that the State prefers religion over non-religion, including by elevating religion to the status of a preferred solution to problems and by encouraging all citizens to believe in a God.

INTERROGATORY 26: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor believes that believers are political insiders and non-believers are political outsiders, with particular regard to how the governor's belief or beliefs have specific effects on the life of the plaintiff and other Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The issuance by the Governor of an annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance and send the message that believers are political insiders, with special access to government leaders, while non-believers are political outsiders without such access, regardless of whatever the Governor's subjective beliefs may be; the Governor's actions send this objective message. Evidence of this distinction exists

in the very fact that such proclamations are issued on an annual basis by the Governor, while no proclamations are issued extolling the role of reason. The appearance of access to government leaders by believers, moreover, is emphasized by the Governor's inclusion of the annual theme and/or scriptural reference chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado's proclamations, at least in 2004-2008. While the plaintiff does not claim that the annual declaration of a Day of Prayer coerces him into becoming a believer, the proclamations do give the appearance to the plaintiff and others that religion is preferred and expected, while the plaintiff's non-belief is disfavored and discouraged. The plaintiff is put in the position, therefore, of being disapproved and/or he is put in the position of having to justify his non-belief. The plaintiff also has children, who will be exposed to the same pressures to adopt belief or be stigmatized by non-belief, as to which the plaintiff will be put in the position of having to explain and justify to his own family his non-belief.

INTERROGATORY 27: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning how HPs become known to all citizens.

RESPONSE: The purpose of a proclamation by the Governor declaring a Day of Prayer is that it become known to all citizens of the State. The purpose and effect of a proclamation is not achieved by secrecy, and, in fact, proclamations are broadcast, including to the plaintiff, through extensive media coverage on the internet, in print media, and by broadcast media sources.

INTERROGATORY 28: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the HPs create a hostile environment for the plaintiff.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual proclamation of a "Colorado Day of Prayer"

gives the appearance that religion is a preferred solution to problems and that all citizens should believe in a God, as encouraged by the Governor. The plaintiff deems his non-belief to be a matter of personal conscience, which he should not have to defend in the face of the Governor's endorsement of religion. The plaintiff views the Governor's promotion of the belief in a God as a violation of his freedom of conscience, which effect is magnified by the annual media hoopla associated with the Day of Prayer, as promoted by the Governor. The plaintiff is made to feel like a stigmatized outsider and he is put in the position of defending or justifying his non-belief, in the face of the Governor's encouragement of belief.

INTERROGATORY 29: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the plaintiff and other members of FFR in Colorado are subjected or exposed to unwanted HPs or any proclamations to pray.

RESPONSE: Annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor are intended to be broadcast publicly and to become known by the citizens of the State, including the plaintiff. In fact, the plaintiff is exposed to the Governor's annual exhortations to pray due to extensive media coverage, to which he is exposed on the internet, in print media, and/or via broadcast mediums.

INTERROGATORY 30: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the government, including but not limited to the defendant state of Colorado and governor, induced any or all celebrations of religion in the public realm.

RESPONSE: Millions of persons, in thousands of events throughout the country, participate in public Day of Prayer celebrations, including many such events held throughout Colorado. These events do not all occur simultaneously on the designated Day

of Prayer coincidentally, but rather as a result of the Governor, the President and local officials, declaring a coordinated Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in such public celebrations of the Day of Prayer, including at the State Capitol in 2007. Declarations of a Day of Prayer do not merely acknowledge ceremonies independently organized, but rather the proclamations create the occasion for the celebration of religion.

INTERROGATORY 31: Define the term religiosity, and identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor's actions constitute a culture of officially-sanctioned religiosity.

RESPONSE: The term religiosity relates to belief in the supernatural, and prayer relates to appeals to the supernatural. The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer," moreover, constitutes the endorsement by the government of religion, including through prayer, as well as the encouragement that all citizens believe in a God. The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer constitute the occasion to celebrate religion and prayer, including in thousands of ceremonies throughout the country. These celebrations of religion, with the encouragement of government officials, create a massive public celebration of religion that is explicitly sanctioned and endorsed by the government.

INTERROGATORY 32: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has "dedicated" a day of prayer, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual prayer proclamation declaring a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER," to be held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 33: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor officially supports and advocates religion through the medium of prayer for all Colorado citizens, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer by the Governor give the appearance of religious endorsement, including the endorsement of religion as practiced through prayer. The inherent endorsement of religion by the issuance of such annual proclamations is further magnified by the Governor's inclusion of an annual theme and/or scriptural reference in proclamations, including between 2004-2008, chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization, headed by Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 34: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the interests and behavior of plaintiff and FFR members in Colorado are injured or affected by any and all actions of the governor, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The Colorado Constitution prohibits the government from endorsing religion, or giving the appearance of such endorsement, regardless whether such endorsement is accompanied by coercion. In the present case, the plaintiff reacts to the Governor's annual proclamation of a Day of Prayer as the endorsement of religion, including the belief in a God. The government's encouragement, including to the plaintiff, to believe in a God is further perceived by the plaintiff to violate his freedom of personal conscience. The government's active encouragement of religion, and apparent preference for religion, also is stigmatizing to the plaintiff, who must defend or justify his non-belief, in the face of the government's actions supporting religion.

INTERROGATORY 35: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has officially admonished any one to pray, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, plaintiff responds that the Governor's annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" constitute encouragement to all citizens of the State to pray. The proclamations also constitute encouragement for citizens to believe in a God, which the government endorses as being appropriate.

INTERROGATORY 36: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the text of the HPs endorses religion per se, as distinguished from religious freedom.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff notes that the Governor's issuance of proclamations declaring a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of religious endorsement by the government. Such endorsement is emphasized, moreover, including in proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by including an annual theme and/or scriptural reference chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization. The government violates the Colorado Constitution by engaging in such endorsement of religion, which is permissible by private parties, but impermissible when done by the government.

INTERROGATORY 37: Identify and specify in detail any and all actions by the governor that could prohibit Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff is not aware of any actions by the Governor prohibiting Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to Days of Prayer. The plaintiff also is not seeking to compel the Governor to prohibit private citizens from engaging in religious celebrations. The plaintiff, however, does seek an end to the Governor's declaration of a state-created religious holiday, such as by declarations of a Day of Prayer. The annual Day of Prayer is not an existing occasion merely recognized by the government, but rather it is an occasion declared to exist in the first instance by the government.

INTERROGATORY 38: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor initiated or organized any celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Celebrations and commemorations with regard to the annual Day of Prayer do not coincidentally occur on the designated Day of Prayer. Such celebrations, instead, spring forth because the government declares a Day of Prayer as to which citizens are encouraged to participate in celebratory activities.

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

REQUEST 1: Produce the text of the 2007 HP.

RESPONSE: The text of prayer proclamations for 2004-2009 will be produced.

REQUEST 2: Produce the complete text of the governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not have the complete text of the Governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

REQUEST 3: Produce any and all references to this lawsuit on FFRF's website.

RESPONSE: This answering Plaintiff has no responsive documents, but the plaintiff FFRF will produce requested documents.

REQUEST 4: Produce any and all written communications of plaintiffs or other FFRF members that refer to this lawsuit.

RESPONSE: This answering plaintiff has no documents responsive to Request No. 4, except privileged communications with counsel.

Dated: January 29, 2010.


As to objections:

/s/ Richard L. Bolton
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Mike Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29th day of January, 2010.


Notary Public, State of Colorado
My commission: 5/28/2011

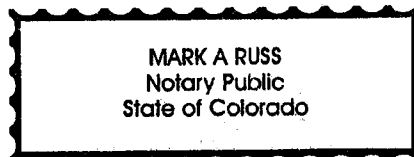


EXHIBIT 96

DISTRICT COURT,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO
1437 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80202

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION, INC.,
MIKE SMITH,
DAVID HABECKER,
TIMOTHY G. BAILEY and
JEFF BAYSINGER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BILL RITTER, JR., in his official capacity as
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, and
THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendants.

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

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Case Number: 08CV9799

Courtroom: 19

**PLAINTIFF DAVID HABECKER'S RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS'
FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES AND FIRST REQUEST
FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**



Plaintiff David Habecker responds and/or objects to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and First Request for Production of Documents as follows:

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

The following general objections apply to the entirety of Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents.

General Objection No. 1: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information beyond the scope of discovery, or otherwise purports to impose discovery or procedural obligations upon Plaintiffs greater than those set forth in the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

General Objection No. 2: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information which is protected from disclosure by: (a) the attorney-client privilege; (b) the work-product doctrine; and/or (c) any other privileges or immunities. Any inadvertent disclosure of information shall not be deemed a waiver or impairment of Plaintiffs' right to assert the applicability of any privilege or immunity to the information.

General Objection No. 3: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive.

General Objection No. 4: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as unduly burdensome, oppressive and beyond the scope of discovery to the extent it seeks information already within the possession and control of Defendants or their counsel, or to the extent it seeks information that is equally available or readily ascertainable from public sources or sources of information hosted by, or accessible by, Defendants.

General Objection No. 5: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as overly broad, unduly burdensome, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent a particular request does not contain a time period limitation or is not appropriately limited to seek information relevant to the claims alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint.

General Objection No. 6: Plaintiffs' responses and objections to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs are based upon information currently known and available to them. Plaintiffs have not yet completed their investigation of the facts pertaining to this matter, and preparations for trial are ongoing. Plaintiffs, therefore, reserve their rights to amend, modify, or supplement the objections or responses stated herein, and to use subsequently discovered documents or other information and documents or other

information known but whose relevance, significance, or applicability has not yet been ascertained.

INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY 1: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer HP on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: The plaintiffs rely upon at least the Prayer Proclamations from 2004-2009.

INTERROGATORY 2: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer "dedication" (as opposed to any HP) on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff relies upon at least the Day of Prayer celebration on May 4, 2007, in which Governor Ritter participated, as well as the Celebration in 2008. Governor Ritter also has participated in the Colorado Prayer Luncheon, including on May 22, 2008.

This answer further may be supplemented as additional discovery is forthcoming from the defendants. The plaintiff further notes, however, that the term "dedication" is ambiguous as to what information the defendants are seeking, but each declared "Colorado Day of Prayer" is itself deemed a dedicated and objectionable endorsement of religion, on a day designated by the Governor for that sole purpose.

INTERROGATORY 3: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP prevented each plaintiff from exercising his or its right to non-belief.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not claim to have been coercively prevented from

exercising his right to non-belief. The plaintiff does contend that the annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement by the government.

INTERROGATORY 4: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP affected each plaintiff's political status in the state of Colorado.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff complains herein that annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of encouraging all persons to believe in God, and thereby give the appearance that belief is preferable and that believers have special access to government leaders, including the Governor.

INTERROGATORY 5: State whether or not each plaintiff has attended or participated in any day of prayer event in Colorado or any NDP event, and identify the date, time, and the actions each plaintiff took at such events, including but not limited to, whether any plaintiff was prevented from taking any action he or it wanted to take at such event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff has not attended or participated in Colorado Day of Prayer or NDP events. In fact, he objects to them. The Governor's encouragement through annual proclamations that all citizens of Colorado should actively participate in such events, however, puts the plaintiff in the position of an outsider, at odds with the official dogma of religious belief.

INTERROGATORY 6: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor or any other state official in any way affected or took any other action with regard to any plaintiff who did not attend or participate in the events referenced

in the above paragraph.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that the Governor's annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" are accompanied by coerced belief or forced participation in prayer events, although there is an implicit expectation of such participation. The plaintiff does complain, however, that the Governor's annual proclamations give the appearance of religious endorsement of religion as a supposed solution to problems, and by encouraging all citizens of Colorado to believe in a God. The plaintiff considers that such encouragement of all citizens to believe in a God is inappropriate and non-believers should not be put in the position of having to resist such overtures to pray.

INTERROGATORY 7: Identify how each plaintiff learned about or was exposed or subjected to the HP, including but not limited to, any coercion that caused him or it to be so exposed.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff is aware of annual declarations of a Day of Prayer through extensive media and internet coverage.

INTERROGATORY 8: Identify what items in the state's budget relate to any allegation in the complaint, including but not limited to, the expenditure of tax monies.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that any line item in the State's budget is specific to the declaration of Days of Prayer. The plaintiff notes, however, that the participation of Governor Ritter in Day of Prayer celebrations does involve the use of paid State personnel, including the Governor and his security.

INTERROGATORY 9: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning the governor's alignment or association with Reign Down USA.

RESPONSE: Sources on the internet report that Governor Ritter proclaimed April

26, 2008 to be a Day of Prayer in Colorado, in conjunction with an event sponsored by Reign Down USA.

INTERROGATORY 10: Identify the exact language and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that language in the HPs constitutes an exhortation or exhortations to pray.

RESPONSE: The issuance of proclamations declaring an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" are issued for the apparent purpose of encouraging all citizens to actively pray. Each proclamation, in its entirety, implicitly is part of the appearance of the exhortation to pray. Each of the proclamations between 2004-2009, moreover, included specific language indicating that on the National Day of Prayer, "Americans will unite in prayer for our Nation, our State, our leaders and our people." Recognizing the National Day of Prayer as a day on which "Americans will unite in prayer," moreover, the Governor in each proclamation then proceeds to proclaim a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER" on the same day as the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 11: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor made "related pronouncements endorsing prayer."

RESPONSE: Governor Ritter has publicly participated in Day of Prayer celebrations at the Capitol, including in 2007 and 2008. The Governor has also participated in prayer luncheon celebrations of religion, including in 2008. Discovery is still proceeding, moreover, and further evidence of such pronouncements may be forthcoming.

INTERROGATORY 12: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there were approximately 70 events held in Colorado to commemorate the May 1, 2009 NDP and CDP, including whether the plaintiff attended these events, and how

he or it were coerced to attend these events. If plaintiff failed to attend any of these events, describe any and all results or effects on his or its lives and activities, including their status as Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend specifically that 70 events were held in Colorado to commemorate the 2009 NDP and CDP, although many such events were held in 2009, as occur on an annual basis. On May 4, 2007, however, Gene Torkelson, of the Rocky Mountain News, reported that more than 70 National Day of Prayer events were held in Colorado in 2007. The plaintiff has not attended such events, to which he objects, but the plaintiff does contend that the Governor's declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement by the government, as described in earlier interrogatory responses.

INTERROGATORY 13: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation concerning any and all contacts between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, writes to each governor, including the Governor of Colorado, requesting each governor to issue a Day of Prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer celebration. At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued such proclamations, including proclamations in 2004-2008, that specifically included the National Day of Prayer Task Force annual theme and/or biblical reference. Mrs. Dobson, in her letters to the governors, identifies the NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference for each year, which the Governor of Colorado has regularly included into his Day of Prayer

proclamations, at least since 2004. In 2009, however, after the commencement of this lawsuit, Governor Ritter issued a prayer proclamation but did not include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 14: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there was any and all joint action between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the NDP Task Force, has written to the Governor of Colorado, as well as the governors of all other states, on an annual basis, requesting each governor to issue a prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer. Mrs. Dobson identifies the annual NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference in her letters to the governors. In at least 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference. Only in 2009, during the pendency of the present action, did the Governor decide not to include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 15: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that governors of the 50 states proclaimed days of prayer in 2007, 2008, and 2009, as well as those who did not, if any.

RESPONSE: The State prayer proclamations from 2004-2009 will be produced.

INTERROGATORY 16: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the proclamations specified in the above paragraph included references to the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or supporting scripture.

RESPONSE: See answer to Interrogatory No. 15.

INTERROGATORY 17: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has embraced the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In proclamations issued in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference, as requested by Mrs. Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 18: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has or is working hand-in-glove with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In at least the annual prayer proclamations issued by the Governor in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual prayer proclamations, as requested by Mrs. Dobson. No governor has incorporated an annual theme or scriptural reference that was not suggested by the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

INTERROGATORY 19: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has a collaborative relationship with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 20: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses the religious principles of the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of

Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual proclamations. The Governor of Colorado has not included annual themes or scriptural references promulgated by other religious groups; he has included only the scriptural references identified on an annual basis by the NDP Task Force, which are readily identifiable as being of biblical origin, according to Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 21: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses religion in violation of the Colorado Constitution.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in National Day of Prayer ceremonies publicly held, including on the Capitol steps in 2007. Governor Ritter has also participated in annual Colorado Prayer Luncheons, including in 2008. The Governor's participation in Day of Prayer activities, including by issuing annual proclamations in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, gives at least the appearance of religious endorsement by the Governor, including because the National Day of Prayer itself is a day dedicated toward promoting prayer for its own sake. The Governor's actions in giving the appearance of supporting or preferring prayer are alleged to violate the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 22: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor supports an indelible bond between church and state.

RESPONSE: The issuance of annual Day of Prayer proclamations, at least since 2004, gives the appearance of State support for religion. This appearance is emphasized, such as in the proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by the express inclusion of annual

themes and scriptural references promoted by the NDP Task Force, an avowedly evangelical Christian organization.

INTERROGATORY 23: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses public celebration of religion by public officials, particularly as distinguished from freedom of religion.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving said objection, the plaintiff relies on the fact that the Governor of Colorado has issued public proclamations declaring an annual Day of Prayer since at least 2004. The prayer proclamations give the appearance of endorsing religion; in fact they include an annual theme and scriptural reference in each proclamation issued in 2004-2008, as set forth and chosen by the NDP Task Force. The issuance of public proclamations constitute a celebration of religion by public officials. In addition, Governor Ritter has openly participated in such public celebrations, including in 2007 and 2008, when he participated in celebrations of the National Day of Prayer. Governor Ritter has also participated in Colorado Prayer Luncheons, such as in 2008, which further give the appearance of public celebration of religion. The distinction between celebration of religion and "freedom of religion," moreover, is unclear in this question, particularly as private speech endorsing religion is protected, but government speech endorsing or preferring religion is not permissible under the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 24: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the words or phrases in the HPs convey to non-religious Americans that they are expected to believe in God.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer"

gives the appearance that the government views religion as a solution to confronted problems and, therefore, elevates religion to the status of generally accepted dogma to which all citizens are encouraged to believe, including belief in a God. The plaintiff is a non-believer who to whom annual prayer proclamations give the appearance of encouragement for him and others to believe in a God, which encouragement from the government is inappropriate for the plaintiff to have to resist.

INTERROGATORY 25: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor prefers religion over non-religion for all Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor gives the appearance that the State prefers religion over non-religion, including by elevating religion to the status of a preferred solution to problems and by encouraging all citizens to believe in a God.

INTERROGATORY 26: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor believes that believers are political insiders and non-believers are political outsiders, with particular regard to how the governor's belief or beliefs have specific effects on the life of the plaintiff and other Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The issuance by the Governor of an annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that believers are political insiders, with special access to government leaders, while non-believers are political outsiders without such access. Evidence of this distinction exists in the very fact that such proclamations are issued on an annual basis by the Governor, while no proclamations are issued extolling the role of reason. The appearance of access to government leaders by believers, moreover, is emphasized by the Governor's inclusion of the annual theme and/or scriptural reference

chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado's proclamations, at least in 2004-2008. While the plaintiff does not claim that the annual declaration of a Day of Prayer coerces him into becoming a believer, the proclamations do give the appearance to the plaintiff and others that religion is preferred and expected, while the plaintiff's non-belief is disfavored and discouraged. The plaintiff is put in the position, therefore, of being disapproved and/or he is put in the position of having to justify his non-belief, as well as opposing such expectations.

INTERROGATORY 27: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning how HPs become known to all citizens.

RESPONSE: The purpose of a proclamation by the Governor declaring a Day of Prayer is that it become known to all citizens of the State. The purpose and effect of a proclamation is not achieved by secrecy, and, in fact, proclamations are broadcast, including to the plaintiff, through extensive media coverage on the internet, in print media, and by broadcast media sources.

INTERROGATORY 28: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the HPs create a hostile environment for the plaintiff.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual proclamation of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that religion is a preferred and effective solution to problems, which it is not, and that all citizens should believe in a God, as encouraged by the Governor. The plaintiff deems his non-belief to be a matter of personal conscience, which he should not have to defend in the face of the Governor's endorsement of religion. The plaintiff views the Governor's promotion of the belief in a God as inappropriate, which effect is magnified by the annual media publicity associated with the Day of Prayer, as promoted by the

Governor. The plaintiff is made to feel like a stigmatized outsider and he is put in the position of defending or justifying his non-belief, in the face of the Governor's encouragement of belief. The plaintiff has long and publicly opposed government sponsored religion and such opposition is viewed as a matter of great hostility by many. The government's sponsorship of religious celebrations, including the Governor's declaration of a Day of Prayer, adds credibility to religion by endorsement.

INTERROGATORY 29: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the plaintiff and other members of FFR in Colorado are subjected or exposed to unwanted HPs or any proclamations to pray.

RESPONSE: Annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor are intended to be broadcast publicly and to become known by the citizens of the State, including the plaintiff. In fact, the plaintiff is exposed to the Governor's annual exhortations to pray due to extensive media coverage, to which he is exposed in print media and/or via broadcast mediums, as well as through resulting Prayer Day activities.

INTERROGATORY 30: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the government, including but not limited to the defendant state of Colorado and governor, induced any or all celebrations of religion in the public realm.

RESPONSE: Millions of persons, in thousands of events throughout the country, participate in public Day of Prayer celebrations, including many such events held throughout Colorado. These events all occur simultaneously on the designated Day of Prayer as a result of the Governor, the President and local officials, declaring a coordinated Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in such public celebrations of the Day of Prayer, including at the State Capitol in 2007.

Declarations of a Day of Prayer do not merely acknowledge ceremonies independently organized, but rather the proclamations create the occasion for the celebration of religion.

INTERROGATORY 31: Define the term religiosity, and identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor's actions constitute a culture of officially-sanctioned religiosity.

RESPONSE: The term religiosity relates to belief in the supernatural, and prayer relates to appeals to the supernatural. The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer," moreover, constitutes the endorsement by the government of religion, including through prayer, as well as the encouragement that all citizens believe in a God. The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer constitute the occasion to participate in religion and prayer, including in thousands of ceremonies held throughout the country. These celebrations of religion, with the encouragement of government officials, create a massive public celebration of religion that is explicitly sanctioned and endorsed by the government.

INTERROGATORY 32: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has "dedicated" a day of prayer, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual prayer proclamation declaring a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER," to be held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 33: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor officially supports and advocates religion through the medium of prayer for all Colorado citizens, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer by the Governor give the

appearance of religious endorsement, including the endorsement of religion as practiced through prayer. The inherent endorsement of religion by the issuance of such annual proclamations is further magnified by the Governor's inclusion of an annual theme and/or scriptural reference in proclamations, including between 2004-2008, chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization, headed by Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 34: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the interests and behavior of plaintiff and FFR members in Colorado are injured or affected by any and all actions of the governor, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff understands that the Colorado Constitution prohibits the government from endorsing religion, or giving the appearance of such endorsement, regardless whether such endorsement is accompanied by coercion. In the present case, the Governor's annual proclamation of a Day of Prayer has the appearance of endorsing religion, including the belief in a God. The government's encouragement, including to the plaintiff, to believe in a God shows the government's active encouragement of religion, and apparent preference for religion, and it also is stigmatizing to the plaintiff, who must defend or justify his non-belief, in the face of the government's actions supporting religion. In addition, the Governor's declarations add credibility to religion and discredit my non-belief.

INTERROGATORY 35: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has officially admonished any one to pray, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous.

Without waiving the objection, plaintiff responds that the Governor's annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" constitute encouragement to all citizens of the State to pray. The proclamations also constitute encouragement for citizens to believe in a God, which the government endorses as being appropriate.

INTERROGATORY 36: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the text of the HPs endorses religion per se, as distinguished from religious freedom.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff notes that the Governor's issuance of proclamations declaring a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of religious endorsement by the government. Such endorsement is emphasized, moreover, including in proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by including an annual theme and/or scriptural reference chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization. The government is believed to violate the Colorado Constitution by engaging in such endorsement of religion, which is permissible by private parties, but impermissible when done by the government.

INTERROGATORY 37: Identify and specify in detail any and all actions by the governor that could prohibit Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff is not aware of any actions by the Governor that prohibit Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to Days of Prayer. The plaintiff also is not seeking to compel the Governor to

prohibit private citizens from engaging in religious celebrations. The plaintiff, however, does seek an end to the Governor's declaration of a state-created religious holiday, such as by declarations of a Day of Prayer. The annual Day of Prayer is not an existing private occasion merely recognized by the government, but rather it is an occasion declared to exist in the first instance by the government.

INTERROGATORY 38: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor initiated or organized any celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Celebrations and commemorations with regard to the annual Day of Prayer do not coincidentally occur on the designated Day of Prayer. Such celebrations, instead, spring forth because the government declares a Day of Prayer as to which citizens are encouraged to participate in celebratory activities.

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

REQUEST 1: Produce the text of the 2007 HP.

RESPONSE: The text of prayer proclamations for 2004-2009 will be produced.

REQUEST 2: Produce the complete text of the governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not have the complete text of the Governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

REQUEST 3: Produce any and all references to this lawsuit on FFRF's website.

RESPONSE: This answering Plaintiff has no responsive documents, but the plaintiff FFRF will produce requested documents.

REQUEST 4: Produce any and all written communications of plaintiffs or other

FFRF members that refer to this lawsuit.

RESPONSE: This answering plaintiff has no documents responsive to Request No. 4, except privileged communications with counsel.

Dated: ^{FEB 1} January 1, 2010.

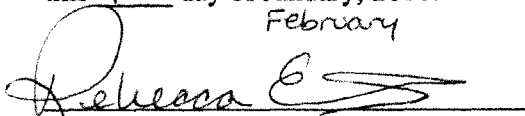
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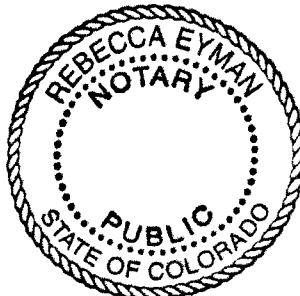
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David Habecker

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 1st day of ~~January~~, 2010.


Notary Public, State of Colorado
My commission: 11/15/2010



My Commission Expires 11/15/2010

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EXHIBIT 97

DISTRICT COURT,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO
1437 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80202

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION, INC.,
MIKE SMITH,
DAVID HABECKER,
TIMOTHY G. BAILEY and
JEFF BAYSINGER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BILL RITTER, JR., in his official capacity as
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, and
THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendants.

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

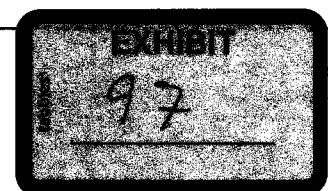
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Case Number: 08CV9799

Courtroom: 19

**PLAINTIFF JEFF BAYSINGER'S RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS'
FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES AND FIRST REQUEST
FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**



Plaintiff Jeff Baysinger responds and/or objects to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and First Request for Production of Documents as follows:

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

The following general objections apply to the entirety of Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents.

General Objection No. 1: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information beyond the scope of discovery, or otherwise purports to impose discovery or procedural obligations upon Plaintiffs greater than those set forth in the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

General Objection No. 2: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to the extent that it seeks information which is protected from disclosure by: (a) the attorney-client privilege; (b) the work-product doctrine; and/or (c) any other privileges or immunities. Any inadvertent disclosure of information shall not be deemed a waiver or impairment of Plaintiffs' right to assert the applicability of any privilege or immunity to the information.

General Objection No. 3: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as being overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive.

General Objection No. 4: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as unduly burdensome, oppressive and beyond the scope of discovery to the extent it seeks information already within the possession and control of Defendants or their counsel, or to the extent it seeks information that is equally available or readily ascertainable from public sources or sources of information hosted by, or accessible by, Defendants.

General Objection No. 5: Plaintiffs object to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs as overly broad, unduly burdensome, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent a particular request does not contain a time period limitation or is not appropriately limited to seek information relevant to the claims alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint.

General Objection No. 6: Plaintiffs' responses and objections to Defendants' First Set of Discovery Requests to Plaintiffs are based upon information currently known and available to them. Plaintiffs have not yet completed their investigation of the facts pertaining to this matter, and preparations for trial are ongoing. Plaintiffs, therefore, reserve their rights to amend, modify, or supplement the objections or responses stated herein, and to use subsequently discovered documents or other information and documents or other

information known but whose relevance, significance, or applicability has not yet been ascertained.

INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY 1: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer HP on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: The plaintiffs rely upon at least the Prayer Proclamations from 2004-2009.

INTERROGATORY 2: Identify every Colorado day-of-prayer "dedication" (as opposed to any HP) on which plaintiff relies to support any of the claims in the complaint.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff relies upon at least the Day of Prayer celebration on May 4, 2007, in which Governor Ritter participated, as well as the Celebration in 2008. Governor Ritter also has participated in the Colorado Prayer Luncheon, including on May 22, 2008. This answer further may be supplemented as additional discovery is forthcoming from the defendants. The plaintiff further notes that the term "dedication" is ambiguous as to what information the defendants are seeking, but each declared "Colorado Day of Prayer" is itself deemed a dedicated and objectionable endorsement of religion, on a day designated for that sole purpose.

INTERROGATORY 3: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP prevented each plaintiff from exercising his or its right to non-belief.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not claim to have been coercively prevented from exercising his right to non-belief. The plaintiff does contend that the annual declaration of

a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement.

INTERROGATORY 4: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that each HP affected each plaintiff's political status in the state of Colorado.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff complains herein that annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of elevating and endorsing religion as a solution to all problems, while encouraging all persons to believe in God, and thereby giving the appearance that belief is preferable and that believers have special access to government leaders, including the Governor.

INTERROGATORY 5: State whether or not each plaintiff has attended or participated in any day of prayer event in Colorado or any NDP event, and identify the date, time, and the actions each plaintiff took at such events, including but not limited to, whether any plaintiff was prevented from taking any action he or it wanted to take at such event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff has not attended or participated in Colorado Day of Prayer or NDP events. In fact, he objects to them. The Governor's encouragement through annual proclamations that all citizens of Colorado should actively participate in such events, however, puts the plaintiff in the position of an outsider.

INTERROGATORY 6: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor or any other state official in any way affected or took any other action with regard to any plaintiff who did not attend or participate in the events referenced in the above paragraph.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that the Governor's annual declarations

of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" are accompanied by coerced belief or forced participation in prayer events, although there is an implicit expectation of such participation. The plaintiff does complain, however, that the Governor's annual proclamations give the appearance of religious endorsement by elevating religion as a supposed solution to problems, and by encouraging all citizens of Colorado to believe in a God. The plaintiff considers that such encouragement of all citizens to believe in a God is inappropriate and non-believers should not be put in the position of having to resist overtures to pray, including in his government workplace.

INTERROGATORY 7: Identify how each plaintiff learned about or was exposed or subjected to the HP, including but not limited to, any coercion that caused him or it to be so exposed.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff is aware of annual declarations of a Day of Prayer through extensive media coverage. The plaintiff also has been witness to resulting prayer activities at work, as well as messages at work announcing Prayer Day activities.

INTERROGATORY 8: Identify what items in the state's budget relate to any allegation in the complaint, including but not limited to, the expenditure of tax monies.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend that any line item in the State's budget is specific to the declaration of Days of Prayer. The plaintiff notes, however, that the participation of Governor Ritter in Day of Prayer celebrations does involve the use of paid State personnel, including the Governor and his security.

INTERROGATORY 9: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning the governor's alignment or association with Reign Down USA.

RESPONSE: Sources on the internet report that Governor Ritter proclaimed April

26, 2008 to be a Day of Prayer in Colorado, in conjunction with an event sponsored by Reign Down USA.

INTERROGATORY 10: Identify the exact language and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that language in the HPs constitutes an exhortation or exhortations to pray.

RESPONSE: The issuance of proclamations declaring an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" are issued for the purpose of encouraging all citizens to actively pray. All of the proclamations, in their entirety, therefore, implicitly are part of the appearance of the exhortation to pray. Each of the proclamations between 2004-2009, moreover, included specific language indicating that on the National Day of Prayer, "Americans will unite in prayer for our Nation, our State, our leaders and our people." Recognizing the National Day of Prayer as a day on which "Americans will unite in prayer," moreover, the Governor in each proclamation then proceeds to proclaim a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER" on the same day as the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 11: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor made "related pronouncements endorsing prayer."

RESPONSE: Governor Ritter has publicly participated in Day of Prayer celebrations at the Capitol, including in 2007 and 2008. The Governor has also participated in prayer luncheon celebrations of religion, including in 2008. Discovery is still proceeding, moreover, and further evidence of such pronouncements may be forthcoming.

INTERROGATORY 12: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there were approximately 70 events held in Colorado to commemorate the May 1, 2009 NDP and CDP, including whether the plaintiff attended these events, and how

he or it were coerced to attend these events. If plaintiff failed to attend any of these events, describe any and all results or effects on his or its lives and activities, including their status as Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not contend specifically that 70 events were held in Colorado to commemorate the 2009 NDP and CDP, although many such events were held in 2009, as occur on an annual basis. On May 4, 2007, moreover, Gene Torkelson, of the Rocky Mountain News, reported that more than 70 National Day of Prayer events were held in Colorado in 2007. The plaintiff has not attended such events, to which he objects, nor does the plaintiff claim that he was coerced to attend such events. The plaintiff does contend, however, that the Governor's declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance of religious endorsement by the government, as described in earlier interrogatory responses.

INTERROGATORY 13: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation concerning any and all contacts between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, writes to each governor, including the Governor of Colorado, requesting each governor to issue a Day of Prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer celebration. At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued such proclamations, including proclamations in 2004-2008, that specifically included the National Day of Prayer Task Force annual theme and/or biblical reference. Mrs. Dobson, in her letters to the governors, identifies the NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference for each year,

which the Governor of Colorado has regularly included into his Day of Prayer proclamations, at least since 2004. In 2009, however, after the commencement of this lawsuit, Governor Ritter issued a prayer proclamation but did not include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 14: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that there was any and all joint action between the governor and the NDP Task Force, either personally or through any member of his staff, who should be identified with particularity including by name and job title.

RESPONSE: Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the NDP Task Force, has written to the Governor of Colorado, as well as the governors of all other states, on an annual basis, requesting each governor to issue a prayer proclamation in coordination with the National Day of Prayer. Mrs. Dobson identifies the annual NDP Task Force theme and scriptural reference in her letters to the governors. In at least 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference. Only in 2009, during the pendency of the present action, did the Governor decide not to include the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 15: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that governors of the 50 states proclaimed days of prayer in 2007, 2008, and 2009, as well as those who did not, if any.

RESPONSE: The State prayer proclamations from 2004-2009 will be produced.

INTERROGATORY 16: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the proclamations specified in the above paragraph included references to the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or supporting scripture.

RESPONSE: See answer to Interrogatory No. 15.

INTERROGATORY 17: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has embraced the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In proclamations issued in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference, as requested by Mrs. Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 18: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has or is working hand-in-glove with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In at least the annual prayer proclamations issued by the Governor in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual prayer proclamations, as requested by Mrs. Dobson. No governor has incorporated an annual theme or scriptural reference that was not suggested by the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

INTERROGATORY 19: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor has a collaborative relationship with the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado expressly included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference.

INTERROGATORY 20: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses the religious principles of the NDP Task Force, and/or Focus on the Family.

RESPONSE: In prayer proclamations issued at least in 2004-2008, the Governor of Colorado included the NDP Task Force annual theme and/or scriptural reference in his annual proclamations. The Governor of Colorado has not included annual themes or scriptural references promulgated by other religious groups; he has included only the scriptural references identified on an annual basis by the NDP Task Force, which are readily identifiable as being of biblical origin, according to Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 21: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses religion in violation of the Colorado Constitution.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in National Day of Prayer ceremonies publicly held, including on the Capitol steps in 2007. Governor Ritter has also participated in annual Colorado Prayer Luncheons, including in 2008. The Governor's participation in Day of Prayer activities, including by issuing annual proclamations in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, gives at least the appearance of religious endorsement by the Governor, including because the National Day of Prayer itself is a day dedicated toward promoting prayer for its own sake. The Governor's actions in giving the appearance of supporting or preferring prayer are alleged to violate the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 22: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor supports an indelible bond between church and state.

RESPONSE: The issuance of annual Day of Prayer proclamations, at least since 2004, gives the appearance of State support for religion. This appearance is emphasized,

such as in the proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by the express inclusion of annual themes and scriptural references promoted by the NDP Task Force, an avocuedly evangelical Christian organization.

INTERROGATORY 23: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor endorses public celebration of religion by public officials, particularly as distinguished from freedom of religion.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving said objection, the plaintiff relies on the fact that the Governor of Colorado has issued public proclamations declaring an annual Day of Prayer since at least 2004. The prayer proclamations give the appearance of endorsing religion; in fact they include an annual theme and scriptural reference in each proclamation issued in 2004-2008, as set forth and chosen by the NDP Task Force. The issuance of public proclamations constitute a celebration of religion by public officials. In addition, Governor Ritter has openly participated in such public celebrations, including in 2007 and 2008, when he participated in celebrations of the National Day of Prayer. Governor Ritter has also participated in Colorado Prayer Luncheons, such as in 2008, which further give the appearance of public celebration of religion. The distinction between celebration of religion and "freedom of religion," moreover, is unclear in this question, particularly as private speech endorsing religion is protected, but government speech endorsing or preferring religion is not permissible under the Colorado Constitution.

INTERROGATORY 24: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the words or phrases in the HPs convey to non-religious Americans that they are expected to believe in God.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that the government views religion as the solution to social problems and, therefore, elevates religion to the status of generally accepted dogma to which all citizens are encouraged to believe, including belief in a God. The plaintiff, in particular, is a non-believer who perceives the annual prayer proclamations to be an encouragement for him and others to believe in a God, which encouragement from the government is inappropriate for the plaintiff to have to resist.

INTERROGATORY 25: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor prefers religion over non-religion for all Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor gives the appearance that the State prefers religion over non-religion, including by elevating religion to the status of a preferred solution to problems and by encouraging all citizens to believe in a God.

INTERROGATORY 26: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation that the governor believes that believers are political insiders and non-believers are political outsiders, with particular regard to how the governor's belief or beliefs have specific effects on the life of the plaintiff and other Colorado citizens.

RESPONSE: The issuance by the Governor of an annual declaration of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that believers are political insiders, with special access to government leaders, while non-believers are political outsiders without such access. Evidence of this distinction exists in the very fact that such proclamations are issued on an annual basis by the Governor, while no proclamations are issued extolling the role of reason. The appearance of access to government leaders by believers, moreover, is

emphasized by the Governor's inclusion of the annual theme and/or scriptural reference chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force in Colorado's proclamations, at least in 2004-2008. While the plaintiff does not claim that the annual declaration of a Day of Prayer coerces him into becoming a believer, the proclamations do give the appearance to the plaintiff and others that religion is preferred and expected, while the plaintiff's non-belief is disfavored and discouraged. The plaintiff is put in the position, therefore, of being disapproved and/or he is put in the position of having to justify his non-belief, as well as opposing such expectations, including in his public workplace.

INTERROGATORY 27: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting your allegation concerning how HPs become known to all citizens.

RESPONSE: The purpose of a proclamation by the Governor declaring a Day of Prayer is that it become known to all citizens of the State. The purpose and effect of a proclamation is not achieved by secrecy, and, in fact, proclamations are broadcast, including to the plaintiff, through extensive media coverage on the internet, in print media, and by broadcast media sources.

INTERROGATORY 28: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the HPs create a hostile environment for the plaintiff.

RESPONSE: The Governor's annual proclamation of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" gives the appearance that religion is a preferred and effective solution to problems, which it is not, and that all citizens should believe in a God, as encouraged by the Governor. The plaintiff deems his non-belief to be a matter of personal conscience, which he should not have to defend in the face of the Governor's endorsement of religion. The plaintiff views the Governor's promotion of the belief in a God as inappropriate, which effect is magnified

by the annual media hoopla associated with the Day of Prayer, as promoted by the Governor. The plaintiff is made to feel like a stigmatized outsider and he is put in the position of defending or justifying his non-belief, in the face of the Governor's encouragement of belief.

INTERROGATORY 29: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the plaintiff and other members of FFR in Colorado are subjected or exposed to unwanted HPs or any proclamations to pray.

RESPONSE: Annual declarations of a "Colorado Day of Prayer" by the Governor are intended to be broadcast publicly and to become known by the citizens of the State, including the plaintiff. In fact, the plaintiff is exposed to the Governor's annual exhortations to pray due to extensive media coverage, to which he is exposed in print media and/or via broadcast mediums, as well as through resulting Prayer Day activities, including those announced in his public workplace.

INTERROGATORY 30: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the government, including but not limited to the defendant state of Colorado and governor, induced any or all celebrations of religion in the public realm.

RESPONSE: Millions of persons, in thousands of events throughout the country, participate in public Day of Prayer celebrations, including many such events held throughout Colorado. These events do not all occur simultaneously on the designated Day of Prayer coincidentally, but rather as a result of the Governor, the President and local officials, declaring a coordinated Day of Prayer. In at least 2007 and 2008, moreover, Governor Ritter participated in such public celebrations of the Day of Prayer, including at the State Capitol in 2007. Declarations of a Day of Prayer do not merely acknowledge

ceremonies independently organized, but rather the proclamations create the occasion for the celebration of religion.

INTERROGATORY 31: Define the term religiosity, and identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor's actions constitute a culture of officially-sanctioned religiosity.

RESPONSE: The term religiosity relates to belief in the supernatural, and prayer relates to appeals to the supernatural. The declaration of an annual "Colorado Day of Prayer," moreover, constitutes the endorsement by the government of religion, including through prayer, as well as the encouragement that all citizens believe in a God. The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer constitute the occasion to celebrate religion and prayer, including in thousands of ceremonies throughout the country. These celebrations of religion, with the encouragement of government officials, create a massive public celebration of religion that is explicitly sanctioned and endorsed by the government.

INTERROGATORY 32: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has "dedicated" a day of prayer, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: At least since 2004, the Governor of Colorado has issued an annual prayer proclamation declaring a "COLORADO DAY OF PRAYER," to be held in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer.

INTERROGATORY 33: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor officially supports and advocates religion through the medium of prayer for all Colorado citizens, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The annual declarations of a Day of Prayer by the Governor give the

appearance of religious endorsement, including the endorsement of religion as practiced through prayer. The inherent endorsement of religion by the issuance of such annual proclamations is further magnified by the Governor's inclusion of an annual theme and/or scriptural reference in proclamations, including between 2004-2008, chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization, headed by Mrs. Shirley Dobson.

INTERROGATORY 34: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the interests and behavior of plaintiff and FFR members in Colorado are injured or affected by any and all actions of the governor, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: The Colorado Constitution prohibits the government from endorsing religion, or giving the appearance of such endorsement, regardless whether such endorsement is accompanied by coercion. In the present case, the plaintiff reacts to the Governor's annual proclamation of a Day of Prayer as the endorsement of religion, including the belief in a God. The government's encouragement, including to the plaintiff, to believe in a God shows the government's active encouragement of religion, and apparent preference for religion, and also is stigmatizing to the plaintiff, who must defend or justify his non-belief, in the face of the government's actions supporting religion.

INTERROGATORY 35: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor has officially admonished any one to pray, including but not limited to, issuing HPs.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, plaintiff responds that the Governor's annual declarations of

a "Colorado Day of Prayer" constitute encouragement to all citizens of the State to pray. The proclamations also constitute encouragement for citizens to believe in a God, which the government endorses as being appropriate.

INTERROGATORY 36: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the text of the HPs endorses religion per se, as distinguished from religious freedom.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff notes that the Governor's issuance of proclamations declaring a "Colorado Day of Prayer" give the appearance of religious endorsement by the government. Such endorsement is emphasized, moreover, including in proclamations issued in 2004-2008, by including an annual theme and/or scriptural reference chosen by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, an openly evangelical Christian organization. The government is believed to violate the Colorado Constitution by engaging in such endorsement of religion, which is permissible by private parties, but impermissible when done by the government.

INTERROGATORY 37: Identify and specify in detail any and all actions by the governor that could prohibit Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Object on the basis that the Interrogatory is vague and ambiguous. Without waiving the objection, the plaintiff is not aware of any actions by the Governor that prohibit Colorado citizens from engaging in celebrations and commemorations with regard to Days of Prayer. The plaintiff also is not seeking to compel the Governor to prohibit private citizens from engaging in religious celebrations. The plaintiff, however,

does seek an end to the Governor's declaration of a state-created religious holiday, such as by declarations of a Day of Prayer. The annual Day of Prayer is not an existing private occasion merely recognized by the government, but rather it is an occasion declared to exist in the first instance by the government.

INTERROGATORY 38: Identify and state all facts and evidence supporting the allegation that the governor initiated or organized any celebrations and commemorations with regard to days of prayer.

RESPONSE: Celebrations and commemorations with regard to the annual Day of Prayer do not coincidentally occur on the designated Day of Prayer. Such celebrations, instead, spring forth because the government declares a Day of Prayer as to which citizens are encouraged to participate in celebratory activities.

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

REQUEST 1: Produce the text of the 2007 HP.

RESPONSE: The text of prayer proclamations for 2004-2009 will be produced.

REQUEST 2: Produce the complete text of the governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

RESPONSE: The plaintiff does not have the complete text of the Governor's statement at the 2007 NDP event.

REQUEST 3: Produce any and all references to this lawsuit on FFRF's website.

RESPONSE: This answering Plaintiff has no responsive documents, but the plaintiff FFRF will produce requested documents.

REQUEST 4: Produce any and all written communications of plaintiffs or other FFRF members that refer to this lawsuit.

RESPONSE: This answering plaintiff has no documents responsive to Request No. 4, except privileged communications with counsel.

Dated: January 28, 2010.

As to objections:

/s/ Richard L. Bolton
Richard L. Bolton, Esq., State Bar No. 1012552
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Boardman, Suhr, Curry & Field LP
1 South Pinckney Street, 4th Floor
P. O. Box 927
Madison, WI 53701-0927
Telephone: (608) 257-9521
Facsimile: (608) 283-1709
Email: rbolton@boardmanlawfirm.com

Jeff Baysinger
Jeff Baysinger

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 28th day of January, 2010.

Lisa Gomez
Notary Public, State of Colorado
My commission: 07-30-2011

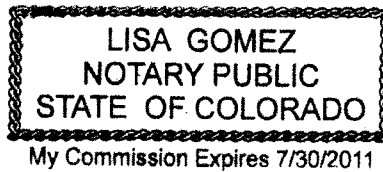


EXHIBIT 98



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

The public observance of a day of prayer is most distressing in a country founded on the principle of freedom of conscience. While reason tells us nothing fails like prayer, a church-sponsored day of prayer would not be a problem.

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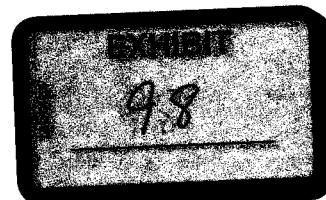
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Fourteen percent of the U. S. adult population (30 million Americans) is *not* religious, according to the definitive American Religious Identification Survey. Prayer proclamations by public officials convey to nonreligious Americans that we are expected to believe in a god, and in the suspension of the natural laws of the universe through wishful thinking.

For your consideration we enclose two suggested secular proclamations, one declaring a "Freethought Week," the other "Giving Thanks for State/Church Separation." A simple "Day of Reason" proclamation also would be very welcome. Please let us know how your office plans to ceremonially acknowledge the rights of conscience of all your citizens—including those who are personally free from religion.

Very truly yours

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents





FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne
Office of the Governor
Boise ID 83720

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Thomas Vilsack
Office of the Governor
Des Moines IA 50319

Dear Governor:

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Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Bill Owens
Office of the Governor
Denver CO 80203-1792

Dear Governor:

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P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Ruth Ann Miner
Office of the Governor
Dover DE 19901

Dear Governor:

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P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Togiola Tulafono
Office of the Governor
Pago Pago AS 96799

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your territory, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Linda Lingle
Office of the Governor
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Governor:

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P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Office of the Governor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Sonny Perdue
Office of the Governor
Atlanta GA 30334

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Frank Murkowski
Office of the Governor
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Bob Riley
Office of the Governor
Montgomery AL 36130

Dear Governor:

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Office of the Governor
Juneau AK 99811

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Very truly yours

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Office of the Governor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mitch Daniels
Office of the Governor
Indianapolis IN 46204

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mike Huckabee
Office of the Governor
Little Rock AR 72201

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Jeb Bush
Office of the Governor
Tallahassee FL 32399

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Janet Napolitano
Office of the Governor
Phoenix AZ 85007

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April 19, 2005

Gov. M Jodi Rell
Office of the Governor
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius
Office of the Governor
Topeka KS 66612

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Ernie Fletcher
Office of the Governor
Frankfort KY 40601

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Kathleen Blanco
Office of the Governor
Baton Rouge LA 70804

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mitt Romney
Office of the Governor
Boston MA 02133

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Robert Ehrlich
Office of the Governor
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. John Balducci
Office of the Governor
Augusta ME 04333

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Office of the Governor
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
St Paul MN 55155

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Matt Blunt
Office of the Governor
Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Governor:

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Very truly yours

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Jean Babauta
Office of the Governor
Saipan MP 96950

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Harley Barbour
Office of the Governor
Jackson MS 39205

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Brian Schweitzer
Office of the Governor
Helena MT 59620

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Michael Easley
Office of the Governor
Raleigh NC 27699

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. John Hoeven
Office of the Governor
Bismark ND 58505

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Dave Heineman
Office of the Governor
Lincoln NE 68509

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. John Lynch
Office of the Governor
Concord NH 033301

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Richard Codey
Office of the Governor
Trenton NJ 08625

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Bill Richardson
Office of the Governor
Santa Fe NM 87501

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Kenny Guinn
Office of the Governor
Carson City NV 89701

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. George Pataki
Office of the Governor
Albany NY 12224

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Bob Taft
Office of the Governor
Columbus OH 43215

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Brad Henry
Office of the Governor
Oklahoma OK 73105

Dear Governor:

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Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Ted Kulongoski
Office of the Governor
Salem OR 97301

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

The public observance of a day of prayer is most distressing in a country founded on the principle of freedom of conscience. While reason tells us nothing fails like prayer, a church-sponsored day of prayer would not be a problem.

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Fourteen percent of the U. S. adult population (30 million Americans) is *not* religious, according to the definitive American Religious Identification Survey. Prayer proclamations by public officials convey to nonreligious Americans that we are expected to believe in a god, and in the suspension of the natural laws of the universe through wishful thinking.

For your consideration we enclose two suggested secular proclamations, one declaring a "Freethought Week," the other "Giving Thanks for State/Church Separation." A simple "Day of Reason" proclamation also would be very welcome. Please let us know how your office plans to ceremonially acknowledge the rights of conscience of all your citizens—including those who are personally free from religion.

Very truly yours

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents



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April 19, 2005

Gov. Edward Rendell
Office of the Governor
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Office of the Governor
San Juan PR 00902

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Don Carcieri
Office of the Governor
Providence RI 02903

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mark Sanford
Office of the Governor
Columbia SC 29211

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mike Rounds
Office of the Governor
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Phil Bredesen
Office of the Governor
Nashville TN 37243

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
Austin TX 78711

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Jon Huntsman
Office of the Governor
Salt Lake City UT 84114

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Mark Warner
Office of the Governor
Richmond VA 23219

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Charles Turnbull
Office of the Governor
St Thomas VI 00802

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. James H Douglas
Office of the Governor
Montpelier VT 05609

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Jim Doyle
Office of the Governor
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor:

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April 19, 2005

Gov. Joe Manchin III
Office of the Governor
Charleston WV 25305

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

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For your consideration we enclose two suggested secular proclamations, one declaring a "Freethought Week," the other "Giving Thanks for State/Church Separation." A simple "Day of Reason" proclamation also would be very welcome. Please let us know how your office plans to ceremonially acknowledge the rights of conscience of all your citizens—including those who are personally free from religion.

Very truly yours

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 19, 2005

Gov. Dave Freudenthal
Office of the Governor
Cheyenne WY 82002

Dear Governor:

On behalf of our membership in your state, we are writing to urge your office to balance religious proclamations, such as for the upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5, by issuing a secular proclamation to honor the uniquely American principle of separation between religion and government.

The public observance of a day of prayer is most distressing in a country founded on the principle of freedom of conscience. While reason tells us nothing fails like prayer, a church-sponsored day of prayer would not be a problem.

Unfortunately, government endorsement of a "National Day of Prayer" grants a green light to theists seeking to inject religious doctrine into government. The bullying religious-right lobby, Focus on the Family, has appropriated this date, placing undue pressure on you and other elected executives to exhort citizens to pray.

Pres. Thomas Jefferson eloquently stated why it is so objectionable for public officials to get into the religious business. During the eight years that he was president, he refused to issue a Thanksgiving proclamation (as did Presidents Jackson and Taylor):

"I consider the Government of the United States as interdicted by the Constitution of the United States from meddling with religious institutions, their doctrines, discipline, or exercises. . . . civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States, and no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents." (*Letter to Rev. Mr. Miller*)

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Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor
Co-Presidents

EXHIBIT 99

will pay \$437,000 to a man who was sexually abused by Rev. Joseph Pritchard, who died in 1988. The jury awarded the amount to the man after finding the archdiocese responsible for the priest's actions. Pritchard abused the victim from 1971-73 at St. Martin of Tours Parish in San Jose. When the man told him he would not be a victim any more, Pritchard reportedly replied, "That's OK, because thanks to you I have a bunch of kids I can do this with." [Also see *Civil Lawsuits Filed*] Source: *San Jose Mercury News* 3/25/05

• The **Archdiocese of Boston, MA**, settled with one of its former insurance carriers that had previously refused to pay for more than \$59 mil. in claims by clergy abuse victims. The insurance carrier paid the archdiocese \$20 mil. after the settlement was approved. In 2003, the archdiocese reached an \$85 mil. settlement involving more than 540 claims of clergy abuse. Source: *AP* 3/7/05

• The **Diocese of Paterson, NJ**, will pay \$5 mil. to 27 men who said they were sexually abused by ex-Catholic priest James T. Hanley. The settlement includes 4 years of counseling for the men, most of whom were abused between 1968-82. Church officials first learned of allegations against him in 1985, but only removed him from the priesthood in 2002. He was not named in the lawsuits because of his cooperation in providing details about his abuse of 20 of the boys. Source: *SF Chronicle* 2/15/05

Legal Developments

• A judge granted a new trial to defrocked Catholic priest Maurice Blackwell, 58, Baltimore, MD, who had been convicted of 3 counts of sexually abusing a minor. The victim shot Blackwell in 2002, 10 years after the abuse. The judge said jurors should not have heard testimonials about other alleged victims of Blackwell. He was removed after admitting to sexually abusing another teen boy in the 1970s. Source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 4/9/05

• Bishop William Waynes, 47, Queens, NY, was acquitted of statutory rape. Said a juror: "We all felt he was guilty in what he did, but there was insufficient evidence to convict him." The founder and pastor of the New Beginning Outreach Love Center, a storefront church, was charged with molesting a girl beginning at age 15, & having sex with her after her 16th birthday party. The victim said he told her she would make a fine evangelist, but that "he would have to enter inside me so that his spirit would come inside me so that I can become a great evangelist." Waynes admitted having sex with her, but claimed it was after she turned 17. He and his wife Eunice, who is co-pastor at the church, have lashed out at the victim's family. Said Waynes: "Any pastor that would accept these people as members beware." Authorities said there were at least 2 other complaints that Waynes abused minors. Sources: *NY Daily News* 3/30/05, 3/24/05

• Rev. John P. Lyons, 76, Brockton, MA, was acquitted of raping a former parishioner at St. Rose of Lima Church in Rochester. He was accused of abusing the boy from 1987-89, starting when the boy was 8. Source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 3/24/05

• The **Diocese of Tucson, AZ**, was given permission by a federal bankruptcy judge to sell 85 of its real estate holdings to settle clergy abuse claims. The diocese filed for bankruptcy last September. At the time, it faced 22 lawsuits by 34 plaintiffs. In 2002, it settled with 10 male victims for \$14 mil. Source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 3/23/05

• The **Pennsylvania** appeals court ruled that 17 people who filed clergy abuse lawsuits against the **Archdiocese of Philadelphia** had waited too long to sue. The court said that even though the "abuses committed by agents of the Catholic Church are, by far, not isolated events," the statute of limitations had expired. One of the cases dated back to 1957, & the most recent occurred in 1983. The archdiocese said 44 of its priests have been "credibly" accused of child sexual abuse since the 1940s. Source: *AP* 3/15/05

• The **Ohio** appeals court ruled that a clergy abuse lawsuit against the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati** can continue, reversing an earlier court decision to throw out the lawsuit. The appeals court said the statute of limitations did not apply because the archdiocese had concealed the abuse from authorities. The lawsuit was filed by a man who was abused as a minor by Rev. Thomas Hopp, who admitted the crime in 2002. He was removed from the ministry. Source: *Cincinnati Enquirer* 3/10/05

• The niece of **Marcus Wesson**, Fresno, CA, testified at his trial, describing years of strict discipline, repeated rape, & "having babies for the Lord." Wesson was charged with killing 9 of his children, ages 1-25, & several counts of sexual abuse of minors. The niece said her abuse began at age 12, when Wesson said he was preparing his nieces & daughters for marriage. Among the murdered victims were 7 children Wesson fathered with his nieces and daughters & 2 with his wife. Source: *Tn-Valley Herald* 3/9/05

• A woman filed a claim in bankruptcy court accusing Rev. Joachim Hien, Spokane, WA, of sexual misconduct. Hien, a native Vietnamese

who is a priest at St. Anthony's Church, allegedly used his position as counselor & spiritual advisor to maneuver a sexual affair with the married woman. He is still considered a priest in good standing with the Diocese of Spokane, which had filed for bankruptcy due to numerous clergy abuse lawsuits. Source: *Spokesman-Review* 3/8/05

• The **Swedish** appeals court overturned a hate-crimes conviction of Rev. Ake Green, 63, a pastor who in a sermon called homosexuals a "cancer." He was the first clergyman convicted under the country's strict hate-crimes laws. Source: *AZ Daily Star* 2/12/05

• A district attorney is investigating whether the **Catholic Diocese of Dallas, TX**, failed to report clergy abuse allegations to police. The diocese claimed in writing 3 years ago that nobody in its ministry had violated state law. However, in February, a pastor resigned after it was revealed he was accused of sexually harassing boys in the 1990s. The boys said the diocese never investigated or reported the allegations. Also that month, another pastor was arrested on charges of possession of child pornography. Source: *NY Times* 2/8/05

Diocese News

• A new policy by the **Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI**—requiring clerics to be subject to unannounced searches of their homes at any time if they are suspected of sexual or drug abuse, or inappropriate behavior—was put on hold after an "overwhelming negative reaction by priests." The policy had stated that priests must get approval for out-of-town or vacation trips, including those with a companion, and will be required to maintain a daily mileage log, in which the log and car odometer will be inspected regularly. The policy also said priests could not own a computer unless otherwise authorized, & are forbidden "to own or possess any indecent or pornographic material." The policy would have covered more than 400 priests & 150 deacons. **Archbishop Timothy Dolan** said he should have consulted the priests before approving the policy: "They are very angry with me. That anger is legitimate, and I am very angry with myself." One of the documents in the policy covers consensual adult sexual relationships "as well as those that were misunderstood as consensual," and "includes priests, or single deacons that are living in a 'married state' with one or more partners of either sex after having professed a vow of celibacy."

The state Supreme Court is currently hearing arguments on whether victims of clergy sex abuse are allowed to sue the Catholic Church

for negligence and fraud for covering up the crimes. The court has previously turned down suits alleging abuse by the late Rev. George Nuedling, saying the crimes that took place in the 1960s-70s were too old to be prosecuted. Also being questioned is a 1995 state Supreme Court ruling saying the church could not be sued in such cases because of the separation of church & state. Sources: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 4/10/05, 4/15/05, 4/14/05

• The **Diocese of Lincoln, NE**, is the only diocese refusing to participate in a nationwide annual audit of how the Catholic Church is handling & preventing child sex abuse. In last year's audit, the diocese was not in full compliance with the policy & made no apology. Source: *Omaha World Herald* 2/19/05

Removed / Resigned


• **Mike Fehlauer**, New Braunfels, TX, resigned as senior pastor of the evangelical Tree of Life Fellowship after admitting to sexual misconduct with a married woman. He had admitted in the past to being addicted to prostitutes & pornography. He founded & directed Foundation Ministries, traveling with his wife to present seminars on family life. He and his wife have now moved to Colorado. Source: *San Antonio Express-News* 4/5/05

• The **Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH**, suspended Revs. **Michael Paraniuk**, **Stanley Doerger**, & **David Vincent**, due to allegations that they abused children in the 1970s-80s. The decision was made after an independent tribunal awarded compensation payments to the victims. Paraniuk was a children's hospital chaplain. Doerger worked at St. Rita's School for the Deaf, & Vincent was a parochial school teacher. Source: *Cincinnati Enquirer* 3/10/05

Other

• Victims of clergy sex abuse gathered in the **Vatican City** to protest **Cardinal Bernard Law** celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica to mourn the pope's death. It was considered a church honor to be one of nine prelates who presided at funeral masses for the pope. Law resigned as archbishop of the Boston Archdiocese, MA, in 2003 after it was revealed that he repeatedly transferred pedophile priests from parish to parish to cover up their crimes. The archdiocese has since paid more than \$85 mil. to more than 550 victims in settlements. Law now leads St. Mary Major, 1 of 4 basilicas under direct Vatican jurisdiction. When he was finally chased from office, he was rewarded with a prestigious, honorary post in Rome as arch-

Creep of the Month



ARRESTED: Tamotsu Kin, 61, Kyoto, Japan: raping a girl, 12. The leader of the Seishin Chuo Kyokai Christian cult is also known as Tamotsu Nagata. He is suspected of raping more than 30 girls in his cult. He allegedly began the abuse on female adult followers, but then started targeting younger girls, summoning them to his room during breaks in church gatherings. In this case, he was charged with raping a girl in a church room in 2002, telling her she was taking part in a holy ceremony. He reportedly continued the abuse until 2004. Last December, 170 followers left the group, resulting in a high-ranking cult member ordering followers to use their credit cards to give money to the group. Kin has previously forced cult members to "donate" all the money from their bank accounts to repay loans the cult obtained in buying land for its headquarters. Source: *Mainichi Daily News* 4/8/05

priest, and given a spacious apartment. He attended the reception for President Bush at the U.S. Embassy in Rome. Source: *Capital Times [WI]* 4/11/05, *New York Times* 4/8/05

• **Scott Hildreth**, Naperville, FL, who has been quoted in numerous newspaper reports in his protests to removing Terri Schiavo's feeding tube, is a registered sex offender. The religious activist and anti-abortionist was charged with 2 counts of rape & 1 count of kidnapping, relating to an incident at Ohio University. He pleaded guilty to sexual battery and was in jail for parts of 1992-93. He also served probation time. Hildreth's son, 10, was one of several kids arrested for crossing police lines in an attempt to take water to Schiavo. Source: *Editor & Publisher* 3/28/05

• **Archbishop Raymond Burke**, St. Louis, MO, sent apology letters to more than 30 clergy abuse victims & their parents, as part of a December settlement with the archdiocese. One man, who was abused by the late Rev. Norman Christian, said the priest once told him: "Who are they going to believe—you or a priest?" Source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 2/23/05

Govs Asked to Balance "Day of Prayer"

The Freedom From Religion Foundation asked all 50 U.S. governors to reconsider and balance gubernatorial actions proclaiming a "Day of Prayer."

Under President Reagan, legislation was passed designating the first Thursday of every May as "National Day of Prayer." Governors are not under any obligation, however, to "observe" it.

The religious right lobby, especially Focus on the Family, annually targets governors and local executives to proclaim a "Day of Prayer." In the past, rare holdouts included Lowell Weicker, when he was governor of Connecticut, and Jesse Ventura, when he was governor of Minnesota.

"The public observance of a day of prayer is most distressing in a country founded on the principle of freedom of conscience," wrote Foundation co-president Dan Barker to governors. "While reason tells us nothing fails like prayer, a church-sponsored day of prayer would not be a problem."

"Prayer proclamations by public officials convey to non-religious Americans that we are expected to believe in a god, and in the suspension of the natural laws of the universe through wishful thinking."

The Foundation sent governors sample copies of proposed secular proclamations, including a "Freethought Week," and "Give Thanks for State/Church Separation. A simple "Day of Reason" would be very welcome:

"There have been many holidays for saints and superstition, but never one commemorating reason, freethought and state/church separation."

The Foundation also reminded governors that 14% of the U.S. adult population is not religious, according to the definitive American Religious Identification Survey.


Freethinkers believe in deeds, not creeds, the governors were told. "The hands that help are better far than lips that pray," as noted 19th century freethinker/attorney Robert G. Ingersoll wrote. Mark Twain advised that is better to read the weather forecast before we pray for rain.

Freethinkers may wish to contact their own local executives or governor to promote freethought proclamations.

Wording for these such proclamations can be found at the Foundation's website: <http://www.ffrf.org/timely/proclamations>.

BE IT KNOWN THAT

MAYOR C. RAY NAGIN



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS


HAS THIS DAY

PROCLAIMED

The National Day of Reason

Encouraging all citizens, students and visitors to observe this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry in the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind

ATTESTED TO THIS



MAYOR C. RAY NAGIN

"Thought you would be interested in knowing that we obtained a Mayoral Proclamation for the National Day of Reason, May 5, 2005."—Harry Greenberger, La.

LEAD US INTO THE NEXT STATION

EXHIBIT

99

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Protecting the constitutional principle of the separation of state and church

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News Release & Action Alert

State/Church Watchdog Group Protests "Day of Prayer" Proclamations, Asks Governors to Balance with "Day of Reason"

May 4, 2005

(Madison, Wis.) The national Freedom From Religion Foundation, the nation's largest freethought (atheist/agnostic) membership group, which works to keep church and state separation, has called on the nation's governors to issue proclamations to balance the National Day of Prayer.

Pointing out "there have been many holidays for saints and superstition, but never one commemorating reason, freethought and state/church separation," the Foundation proposes that governors proclaim a "Day of Reason," a "Freethought Week" or a "Give Thanks for State/Church Separation."

Governors and local officials are annually targeted by rightwing groups, such as Focus on the Family, to issue annual proclamations calling on constituents to pray. Under Reagan, legislation was passed designating the first Thursday of every May as "National Day of Prayer," but governors are not obliged to "observe" it.

"The public observance of a day of prayer is most distressing in a country founded on the principle of freedom of conscience," noted Foundation co-president Dan Barker. "While reason tells us nothing fails like prayer, a church-sponsored day of prayer would not be a problem," unlike government prayer.

Fourteen percent of the U.S. adult population is not religious, the Foundation reminded governors in individual letters sent in mid-April requesting secular proclamations. According to the definitive American Religious Identification Survey, that is 30 million U.S. adults.

"Prayer proclamations by public officials convey to nonreligious Americans that we are expected to believe in a god, and in the suspension of the natural laws of the universe through wishful thinking," added Foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor.

"The hands that help are better far than lips that pray," according to noted 19th century freethinker/attorney Robert Green Ingersoll. Freethinkers believe in deeds, not creeds. As Mark Twain pointed out, "It is better to read the weather forecast before we pray for rain." Governors who have responded to date to the request typically have noted they issue proclamations on behalf of state citizens. So the Foundation urges its membership to take up the challenge by contacting governors or other local officials sponsoring a "Day of Prayer" and requesting secular balance.

[Read samples of suggested secular proclamations.](#)

EXHIBIT 100

efforts to make sure they have the information they need."

The press release notes, "By law, organizations exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) may not 'participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.'"

The IRS said it is making extensive efforts to educate 501(c)(3) organizations, political parties and candidates through its Political Activities Compliance Initiative.

Letters are even being sent, the IRS said, to the national political party committees explaining the law's prohibition regarding charities and churches.

Americans United pointed out that it's up to religious leaders to make certain they follow the law. Candidates seeking votes may look for access to houses of worship, and religious leaders have an obligation to make sure the law is not violated.

Although many Religious Right groups chafe under the IRS regulations, not all conservative religious groups agree. The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) recently surveyed evangelical leaders and found most firmly rejecting pulpit-based politicking.

The group asked the CEOs from 60 evangelical churches, universities and affiliated organizations if their "churches advise parishioners who to vote for."

The NAE says most respondents answered, "No!" - actually using an exclamation mark.

NAE President Leith Anderson said in a press release that answers to such survey questions are usually across the board, "but this time was different." Only one out of 60 respondents said he tells parishioners which candidates the church supports.

Bush Salutes The Dobsons, Pushes Role Of Religion At White House Prayer Event

President George W. Bush hosted Religious Right leader James Dobson

at a White House event marking the National Day of Prayer May 1.

At an East Room ceremony attended by cabinet officers as well as members of the House of Representatives and Senate, Bush thanked Dobson's wife, Shirley, for serving as chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private group that oversees many Prayer Day activities.

Shirley Dobson opened the White House service with, as Focus on the Family later reported, a "strong, bold and winsome call for America to return to the Lord and pray for its leaders."

Bush then took the podium.

Flanked by the choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral from New York City, the president remarked, "I think one of the interesting things about a National Day of Prayer is it does help describe our nation's character to others. We are a prayerful nation. A lot of citizens draw comfort from prayer. Prayer is an important part of the lives of millions of Americans.

"And it's interesting, when you think about our faith, you can find it in the Pledge of Allegiance, you can find an expression of American faith in the Declaration of Independence, and you can find it in the coins in our pockets.

"Over the last seven years, our country has faced many trials," Bush added. "And time and time again we have turned to prayer and found strength and resilience. We prayed with those who've lost everything in natural disasters, and helped them heal and recover and build....

"And as we pray for God's continued blessings on our country," he said, "I think it makes sense to hope that one day there may be a International Day of Prayer.... It will be a chance for people of faith around the world to stop at the same time to pause to praise an Almighty."

Later in the day, the Dobsons' NDP Task Force hosted a three-hour service on Capitol Hill. FOF reported that "officials, dignitaries and guests joined together in praying for the nation, its families, its government, its military, and the upcoming elec-

tion." Similar events took place around the country.

Americans United charged that the National Day of Prayer has been largely hijacked by the Religious Right and is being used as an opportunity to promote a far-right religious-political agenda.

"In many cases, this event is more about politics than prayer," said Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "It's just another excuse for the Religious Right to attack church-state separation."

Lynn noted that the NDP Task Force's Web site claims it is the "National Day of Prayer Official Web Site," but, in fact, the group has no official status. The Task Force states that its purpose is to "Foster unity within the Christian Church" and "Publicize and preserve America's Christian heritage." Non-Christians are usually prohibited from leading or speaking at NDP Task Force events.

The Task Force requires volunteer prayer coordinators to sign a fundamentalist statement of faith that declares that "the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God" and that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation."

This year, some advocates of church-state separation fought back. Inclusive events open to people of all faiths and none were held in several cities.

Jews on First, an internet site that promotes church-state separation, launched a "Campaign for an Inclusive National Day of Prayer." Jane Hunter, co-director of Jews on First, told the *Christian Science Monitor* that the day "has been hijacked. Only Christian clergy are invited to participate."

In an opinion column that was distributed nationwide, AU's Lynn and Interfaith Alliance Foundation President C. Welton Gaddy criticized the Religious Right's takeover of the day.

"It's debatable whether a nation founded on the constitutional separation of church and state needs a federal government reminder to pray in the

EXHIBIT

tabbles

100

first place," wrote Lynn and Gaddy. "Chalk it up to a less pluralistic, less religiously sensitive age. But the National Day of Prayer really started to deteriorate in 1988, when the National Day of Prayer Task Force was created by the Religious Right, hijacking the National Day of Prayer in the name of those who would make their concept of God the only acceptable one."

The National Day of Prayer was signed into law in 1952 by President Harry Truman. In 1988, Congress amended the law to state that observances would be held the first Thursday in May.

N.J. Student Speaks Out Against Biased Textbook That Pushes Prayer Myths

A New Jersey high school student is speaking out against a civics textbook that inaccurately portrays the state of the law regarding prayer in public schools.

Matthew LaClair, a high school senior in Kearny, N.J., has criticized the book *American Government* by John J. DiIulio and James Q. Wilson. The text, now in its 11th edition, is used in many public schools nationwide.

"I just realized from my own knowledge that some of this stuff in the book is just plain wrong," LaClair told the Associated Press.

LaClair brought the book to the attention of the Center for Inquiry in Amherst, N.Y. Staff members there prepared a report on the tome, noting its biased treatment of church-state separation and global warming. The book dismisses climate change, asserting that the threat has been overblown by the scientific community.

The book's discussion of school prayer is simplistic and misleading, parroting Religious Right views. For example, it states that the Supreme Court has ruled "as unconstitutional every effort to have any form of prayer in public schools, even if it is nonsectarian, voluntary or limited to reading a passage of the Bible."

In fact, the high court has struck down only state-sponsored religious worship in public schools. Students

are free to pray or read religious books on their own.

The book also contains a photo of students praying in front of a Virginia high school. The caption reads, "The Supreme Court will not let this happen inside a public school."

Book coauthor DiIulio was the first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and has long been a critic of church-state separation. Wilson is a prominent conservative writer and academic.

The book's publisher, Houghton Mifflin, says some changes have been made. The picture from the Virginia high school has been dropped, and some of the rhetoric questioning global warming has been toned down, staffers at the publishing firm said.

The effort marks LaClair's second venture supporting church-state separation. Last year, he challenged a history teacher who was promoting religion in class. LaClair secretly taped some of the lectures and presented them to officials at the school. The controversy made national headlines.

Americans United wrote to the school advising officials to tell the teacher to stop, and Lynn later made a presentation about church-state separation there.

LaClair recently appeared in a program sponsored by Americans United and The Interfaith Alliance Foundation, discussing his activities. (See "Two Thumbs Up!," *May Church & State*.)

Americans United Joins Array Of Religious Groups In Opposing Church Aid

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has joined a coalition of religious and civil liberties groups to urge a federal appeals court to strike down the use of public funds to repair Detroit houses of worship.

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed April 17, seven organizations asked the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to rule against aid to churches that was distributed by the City of Detroit Downtown Development Authority in 2006.

The money was given to three downtown churches to repair their facades and for landscaping and lighting upgrades to spruce up sections of the city prior to the Super Bowl. A federal district court said the aid did not advance religion.

Organizations joining on the brief include Americans United; the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty; American Jewish Committee; Hadasah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; the Hindu American Foundation; The Interfaith Alliance Foundation and Americans for Religious Liberty.

"Americans have a long tradition of offering voluntary support to houses of worship," said Barry W. Lynn, Americans United executive director. "Coercing taxpayers to provide this aid is a monumental violation of the right of conscience."

The legal brief in *American Atheists, Inc. v. City of Detroit Downtown Development Authority* argues that government aid to religion ends up doing more harm than good.

"The lessons of history are compelling: Governmental aid to construct and maintain houses of worship degrades religion and distorts government," asserts the brief.

The brief goes on to argue, "[T]he grant recipients here are not just religiously affiliated: They are full-fledged churches. So the district court's approval of public funding for repairs would have been especially noxious to those who adopted the First Amendment.... And it would have been equally offensive to those who sought to maintain their cherished religious freedom by ensuring that their houses of worship could never develop an unhealthy dependence on governmental largesse."

The brief draws extensively on history and cites the works of religious liberty pioneers such as James Madison, Roger Williams and others.

"Government funding leads to the very intrusiveness on freedom of conscience that Roger Williams cautioned against, and that [James] Madison designed the Establishment Clause to prevent," the brief asserts.

The New York Times

May 7, 2004

Bush Addresses Evangelicals on Prayer Day

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

An annual address by President Bush marking the National Day of Prayer was broadcast Thursday night over several Christian television and radio networks as part of an evangelical concert, transmitting his message to a pivotal political constituency around the country.

The president's participation in the broadcast drew criticism from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a liberal group, which suggested that the nonprofit evangelical organization that sponsors the concert and related events was improperly advertising for Mr. Bush's re-election.

Some religious figures, including a Roman Catholic bishop and the president of a major evangelical Christian seminary, also accused the organizers of the broadcast and the White House of using prayer for political purposes.

The president made his remarks Thursday afternoon before a small gathering in the East Room of the White House. He spoke immediately after making a public apology for the reported mistreatment of Iraqi captives by American soldiers.

President Bush has often proclaimed that the United States is doing God's work by spreading freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. But on Thursday he appeared to adopt a more humble tone.

"God is not on the side of any nation, yet we know he is on the side of justice," Mr. Bush said. "And it is the deepest strength of America that from the hour of our founding, we have chosen justice as our goal." He added: "Our greatest failures as a nation have come when we lost sight of that goal: in slavery, in segregation, and in every wrong that has denied the value and dignity of life. Our finest moments have come when we have faithfully served the cause of justice for our own citizens, and for the people of other lands."

President Bush made his remarks in the East Room during an event that included the Rev. Barry Black, a Seventh-day Adventist minister who is chaplain of the Senate; the Rev. Daniel Coughlin, a Catholic priest who is chaplain of the House; and Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

President Bush also invited and saluted the leaders of the separate nonprofit evangelical National Prayer Committee, which organizes the concert broadcast and other events across the country. The president commended Oliver L. North, the former Iran-contra figure and Fox News newscaster who is honorary chairman of the evangelical Christian National Day of Prayer task force, as well as Shirley Dobson, its chairwoman. The president especially thanked Mrs. Dobson for bringing her husband, James C. Dobson, a conservative Christian psychologist and radio host who is among the most influential evangelical Christian figures in the country. "We're also glad you brought Jim with you," Mr. Bush said.

Congress created a National Day of Prayer under President Harry S. Truman in 1952, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the country. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan affixed it to the first Thursday in May, inviting Jerry Falwell and other leaders of the conservative Christian political movement to the White House for the occasion.

The independent National Day of Prayer Task Force was began in 1973 to promote less ecumenical,

specifically evangelical Protestant spirituality, eventually growing to include events around the country and a three-hour concert broadcast Thursday night along with a replay of the president's remarks.

On the Web site of the evangelical National Day of Prayer, the group closely echoes President Bush's assertions that the United States is doing God's work in Iraq and Afghanistan, inviting visitors to "adopt our troops" in prayer. The site, nationaldayofprayer.org, encourages special prayers for certain "centers of power" in America, including praying that educational institutions to return teaching "Judeo-Christian values," warning that kindergarten classes are teaching "homosexual propaganda." The site also suggests special prayers for Christians in the news media, which it says it often hostile to Christianity.

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group, said the idea that schools were teaching gay propaganda was false and divisive, calling its inclusion in the context of prayer "a shame."

Trent Duffy, a spokesman for the White House, said those prayers did not reflect the president's views, and noting that the audience assembled for the event in the White House included people of many faiths, including Muslims and Hindus.

Richard Mouw, president of the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, a major evangelical school, argued that such prayers "call people together in a position of self-righteousness, to talk about people who they think are more sinful than they are, and that is a dangerous thing."

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of the Archdiocese of Detroit, said he disputed the whole premise of the National Day of Prayer, which he said seems to petition God with certain goals in mind. "The whole point of prayer should be about asking God's will," Bishop Gumbleton said, and he noted that the Catholic Church opposed the war in Iraq.

But Jim Weidmann, vice chairman of the evangelical National Day of Prayer organization, said the group was merely adhering to its reading of the Bible. Mr. Weidmann said the organization had no political goal, "We pray that God will raise up men and women he can use."

Photo: President Bush bowed his head yesterday as the Rev. Daniel Coughlin, lower right, led the National Day of Prayer service in the White House. (Photo by Associated Press)

EXHIBIT 101

About this site

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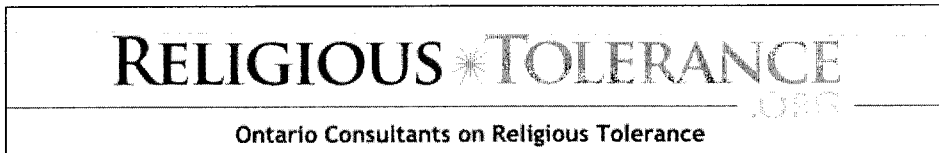
World religions
BUDDHISM

CHRISTIANITY

- Who is a Christian?
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The National Day of Prayer (NDP)

The relation between the NDP and the NDP Task Force

Sponsored link.



The *National Day of Prayer* (NDP) was created by Congress so that Americans of all religions who believe in one or more deities can pray together in fellowship. Most of the events associated with the NDP are exclusively Evangelical Christian event organized by local Evangelicals and coordinated by the *National Day of Prayer Task Force*. There are some indications that a reversal in this trend has started, leading to inclusive celebrations at which people of all religious affiliations -- and none - will be comfortable.

**Is the NDP task force in charge of the NDP?
Is the NDP an Evangelical Christian celebration?**

The answers to both questions are: no, in theory, and yes in practice.

- **The NDP is a government-selected day of observance.** This is proclaimed annually for the first Thursday in May by the President of the United States. Most, if not all, state and territorial governors follow suit. Because of the principle of separation of church and state, the government cannot actually participate directly in the organization of events without violating the Constitution.

According to *The National Day of Prayer Task Force* (NDPTF), an Evangelical Christian group:

"The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans. It is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens from all backgrounds." ¹

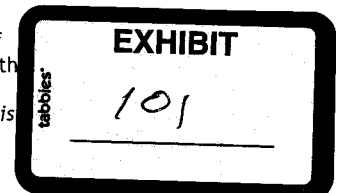
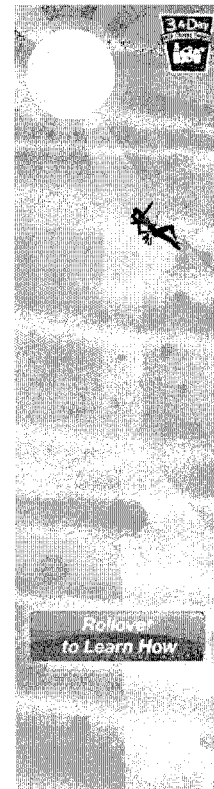
Presumably "all backgrounds" includes persons of all religions.

In his annual proclamations, President Bush continues the original intent of the NDP by referring to it as an observance for persons of all religions. In 2005, he wrote:

"Since our Nation's earliest days, prayer has given strength and comfort to Americans of all faiths....I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, each according to his or her own faith, for the liberty and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance and protection." ²

- **NDP events are organized by non-governmental groups:** Actual NDP events are typically run by faith-based organizations that organize gatherings in a particular municipality, across a state, or throughout the country. By far the largest of these groups is the *National Day of Prayer Task Force*, an Evangelical Christian organization. The NDPTF selects their own annual honorary chairperson, a theme and sometimes a scriptural verse. All are consistent with their Evangelical Christian beliefs. However, other organizations are free to select their own honorary chairperson, theme and verse, following their own belief system.

Over time, the public, media, and government has begun to confuse the NDPTF and the NDP, as if the federal and state governments have authorized the NDPTF to fully control the NDP. Actually, the NDPTF is only one many possible expressions of the NDP. Other groups can and do select leaders, themes, slogans, etc. For example, the Oklahoma Chapter of *Americans United, Mainstream Baptists of Oklahoma*, and the *Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma*, co-sponsored an interfaith NDP event in Oklahoma City, OK in 2005. Their theme was: *"Let Freedom Ring: A Celebration of Freedom of*



(1)

topics
 Science v.
 Religion
 More info.

Conscience." 3

Confusion between the NDP and the National Day of Prayer Task Force:

Spiritual/ethics
 Spirituality
 Morality/ethics
 Absolute truth

A statement by the *National Day of Prayer Task Force* [NDPTF] on their web site attempts to differentiate between the *National Day of Prayer* [NDP] and themselves. They write:

"The *National Day of Prayer* was created by an act of Congress and is, therefore, intended for all peoples of faith to pray to the God of their understanding." 4

Peace/conflict

Attaining peace
 Religious tolerance

That is, a Muslim group similar to the NDPTF could organize a Islamic expression of the NDP in one city, a state, or a group of states. Interfaith group can and do organize a multi-faith expression of the NDP.

Religious hatred
 Religious conflict
 Religious violence

The NDPTF continues:

"However, our expression of that involvement is specifically limited to the Judeo-Christian heritage and those who share that conviction as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant [sic]. If peoples of other faiths wish to celebrate in their own tradition, they are welcome to do so, but we must be true to those who have supported this effort and volunteered their time to promote it. *National Day of Prayer* is not a function of the government and, therefore, a particular expression of it can be defined by those who choose to organize it. This is not a church/state issue." 4

"Hot" topics

Very hot topics
 Ten commandm'ts
 Abortion
 Assisted suicide
 Cloning

The President, in proclaiming the NDP does not assign a yearly honorary chairperson or official theme or official Bible verse. In the same way, there is no chairperson, theme or verse associated with Thanksgiving or Christmas.

A state of massive confusion still exists between the NDP and the NDPTF:

Death penalty
 Environment
 Equal rights - gays & bi's
 Gay marriage
 Nudism
 Origins of the species
 Sex & gender
 Sin
 Spanking kids
 Stem cells
 Women-rights
 Other topics

- All or essentially all state and territorial governors issue proclamations each year for the NDP. Most of the 2005 proclamations picked up the NDPTF's theme and Bible reference and integrated them in the proclamation as if they were the only expression of the NDP. For example, the 2005 NDPTF's theme is "*God Shed His Grace on Thee*;" the Bible reference is Hebrews 4:16. Most of the proclamations issued by state and territorial governors quoted the Task Force's theme and biblical reference. In reality, they were simply a theme and Bible verse selected by one non-governmental non-profit agency.
- The press release issued by the NDPTF on 2005-MAY-01 does not clearly differentiate between the NDP and NDPTF:
 - Its title is "*Millions to unite in prayer requesting 'God to shed his grace on America.*" This is a reference to the NDPTF theme.
 - The subtitle is "*President George W. Bush and all 50 governors will proclaim 65th annual National Day of Prayer.*" This is a reference to the government proclamation of the NDP.
 - A casual observer might easily assume that the NDPTF was the official organizer of the NDP.
 - The first paragraph talks about the National Day of Prayer, as proclaimed by the federal, state, and territorial governments.
 - The second paragraph mentions the 2005 theme and Scripture reference as chosen by the NDPTF.
 - The third paragraph talks again about the National Day of Prayer.
 - The fourth paragraph refers to the NDPTF choice for its honorary chairperson, and its choice for a theme book.
 - The fifth paragraph refers to the history of the NDP. 5
- The *Texas Freedom Network Educational Fund* lists some U.S. news sources which confused the 2005 NDP with the NDPTF -- perhaps because of the ambiguity of the NDPTF press release:
 - The *Associated Press* named Shirley Dobson as the NDP Chairwoman, not the head of the NDPTF, which is one of many non-governmental, non-profit agencies which promotes the NDP.
 - The *New Orleans Times-Picayune* named Rev. Max Lucado as honorary chairman of the NDP, not honorary chairman of the NDPTF. They also listed "*God Shed His Grace on Thee*" as the NDP theme instead of the theme selected by the NDPTF.
 - The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* also named Shirley Dobson as Chair of the NDP instead of the NDPTF.
 - The *Tampa Tribune* stated incorrectly that the NDP was organized by the NDPTF.
 - The *San Antonio Express-News* printed a column by the local NDPTF coordinator. It named, without any official sanction, the city's theme as "*God Shed His Grace on Thee.*"

6

About the *National Day of Prayer Task Force*:



Ads by Google

Life ChangingPrayer

Jesus Christ Loves You. Here is a Prayer That Can Change Your Life
www.Jesus2020.com

Lords PrayerCross

Bid on Lords Prayer Cross now! Find Collectible Items.
www.eBay.com

Prayer

Looking for Prayer? Find exactly what you want today.
Yahoo.com

1 flat stomachrule: obey

Cut down 9 lbs of stomach fat every 11 days by obeying this 1 tiny rule
FatLoss4idiots.com

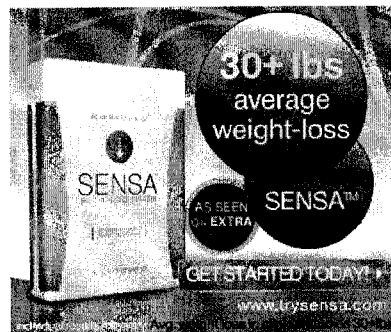
The *National Day of Prayer Task Force* (NDPTF) was organized in 1988 as a non-profit group "to encourage and promote events related to the National Day of Prayer." It received startup grants from *Focus on the Family* in Colorado Springs, CO, where it still locates its headquarters. Its chairperson is Shirley Dobson, spouse of James Dobson the founder and head of *Focus*.

The NDPTF originally directed its activities to the Judeo-Christian community. On 2001-JAN, their web site stated that: "...the efforts of the NDP Task Force are executed specifically in accordance with its Judeo-Christian beliefs." ⁷ Some of the events in the early years were in Jewish locations or involved both Jews and Christians. Since then they have modified their target audience in a subtle way. They now direct their events only to those Judeo-Christians who agree with the Lausanne Covenant. ⁸ The Covenant was accepted by Fundamentalist and other Evangelical Protestants from over 150 nations during the *International Congress on World Evangelization* at Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. The Covenant includes such beliefs as the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the Trinity, the imminent Second Coming of Jesus Christ, The Antichrist, the Great Commission to convert the entire world's population to Evangelical Christianity, the continuing "spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil," concern over Christian faith groups who have deviated from historical Christian teachings -- sometimes called "cults," etc. The Covenant calls for the ending of oppression based on race, religion, color, culture, class, sex and age. It does not call for the banning of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The NDPTF's inclusion of only those of the Judeo-Christian heritage who agree with the *Lausanne Covenant* may at first seem confusing. The Covenant promotes the exclusivity of Christianity. It states that Jesus Christ is: "the only mediator between God and people. There is no other name by which we must be saved." At first glance, it would seem that few if any Orthodox, Conservative or Reform Jews could accept these beliefs. The *Texas Freedom Network Educational Fund* goes so far as to describe this position as "disingenuous." ⁶ However Jews for Jesus and other Messianic Jewish groups have combined Jewish traditions with Evangelical Christian theological beliefs. They consider themselves to be "completed Jews." But, from a theological point of view, they are Evangelical Christians and would have no difficulty in accepting every statement in the *Lausanne Covenant*. However, the NDPTF requirements would exclude any NDP event run by a traditional Jewish group, or by any other non-Christian organization, or by an inter-faith group.

Thus, the National Day of Prayer Task Force can now be considered an exclusively Evangelical Christian non-profit recognizing only those NDP events which are organized by Evangelical groups.

Sponsored link:




References used:

The following information sources were used to prepare and update the above essay. The hyperlinks are not necessarily still active today.

1. "National Day of Prayer: History of the Holiday," National Day of Prayer Task Force, undated, at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>
2. George W. Bush, "National Day of Prayer, 2005: A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America," 2005-MAY-03, at: <http://ndptf.org/>
3. "Americans United Plans Oklahoma City Event To 'Let Freedom Ring' On National Day Of Prayer Wednesday, May 4, 2005. Inclusive Event Celebrates Freedom Of Conscience, Welcomes All Faiths And Philosophical Traditions," Americans United, 2005-MAY-04, at: <http://www.au.org/>.
4. "National Day of Prayer: About NDP," National Day of Prayer Task Force, undated, at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>
5. NDPTF press release for 2005, National Day of Prayer Task Force, 2005-MAR-01, at: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/> **
6. "The National Day of Prayer Task Force: Turning a day of faith into a rally for the Christian Right," Texas Freedom Network Educational Fund, 2005, at: <http://www.tfn.org/> **


(3)

- 7. "National Day of Prayer Fact Sheet," National Day of Prayer Task Force, at: www.nationaldayofprayer.org/ as it existed on 2001-JAN-8. Accessed via the archive at: <http://web.archive.org>
- 8. "The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization," at: <http://www.lausanne.org/>


** These are PDF files. You may require software to read them. Software can be obtained free from:  **DOWNLOAD ADOBE ACROBAT READER**

Site navigation:
 Home > Christianity > Christian history, etc > Prayer > NDP > here
 Home > Christianity > History, beliefs... > Practices > Prayer > NDP > here
 or Home > Spiritual topics > NDP > here
 or Home > Religious information > NDP > here

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 Originally published: 2003-APR-14
 Most recent update: 2005-MAY-15
 Author: B.A. Robinson




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brother
at your side

Go [back](#) to the previous page, or to the National Day of Prayer menu, or choose:

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Web ReligiousTolerance.org

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Babel Fish

To translate this page, click a flag!



(4)

EXHIBIT 102

Home From The Chairman What is the NPC? Prayer Ministries Calendar Donate

Home Calendar

Contact Us Links Search



The First Thursday in May
May 7, 2009

Of Special Note...

- NPC Meetings
- NEW! NPC Project Launched
- Textbook Publication Announced
- First Friday Prayer Call
- Critical Prayer Concerns for Revival- IFA

Support the NPC



It's now easier than ever to donate using PayPal.

Prayer Ministries Spotlight

Waymakers (NPC)

Waymakers helps churches prepare the way for renewal and gospel advance by building local movements of united prayer, presenting weekend seminars and providing materials designed to equip Christians in

The National Prayer Committee takes an active role in uniting Christians for times of focused prayer. Through the course of the year NPC members and other ministries provide guidance for prayer events ranging from one day calls to prayer to events that last well over a month.

Click on a month to view events taking place during that month.

Prayer Events Occuring Each Month

January	February	March	April
May	June	July	August
September	October	November	December

Member Log in

Username

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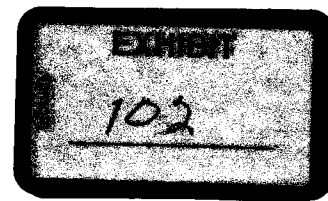
[Lost Password?](#)

Monthly
First Friday Prayer Focus
www.ifapray.org

A day of fasting and prayer each month for revival and for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1). Participants are encouraged to make Friday--especially the first Friday of the month--a day of special emphasis on revival in the church. This emphasis is our modern expression of a National Prayer Accord.

First Nations Monday
<http://www.firstnationsmonday.com/>

The purpose of First Nations Monday is to encourage Native American leaders, prayer coordinators, independent intercessory prayer groups, organizations and churches to join together in prayer the first Monday of each month for Native Ministry. "By praying for one another," says Jeny Covill of First Nations Monday, "there will be an increase of prayer support for each ministry, as well as an increase in Native Ministry awareness around the country." If you, your organization or ministry would like to be included in First Nations Monday, contact Jeny Covill at jcovill@cyberport.net Intercessors For America will send monthly updates on First Nations Monday to anyone who subscribes to the Native American Prayer Alert.



Seek God For The City
February 25 - April 5, 2009
www.waymakers.org

Pray with others in the power of biblical hope! Seek God For The City helps everyday believers find their own words to express God's heart for the people of their communities, with prayers that are fresh, relevant and based on biblical promise.

The National Day of Prayer
May 7, 2009
www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Celebrated annually on the 1st Thursday in May the National Day of Prayer (NDP) was established by an act of Congress which encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders. The NDP Task Force concentrates on the need to pray for those in leadership on all levels of national, church, and educational areas of influence.

Global Day of Prayer
May 31, 2009
<http://www.gdopusa.com>
www.globaldayofprayer.com

A Global Day of Prayer will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 2008. The plan is to start praying as the sun rises in the East (New Zealand) in different time zones until the Sun sets in the West (USA). The planning will involve leaders from all 6 continents and will include more than 240 countries around the Globe under the auspices of International Prayer Council (IPC). In May 2005, over 200 million believers participated in 156 nations around the world. In May 2007, 204 nations participated around the world.

See You At the Pole
September 23, 2009
www.syatp.org

See You at the Pole is a student-led, student-initiated movement of prayer that revolves around students praying together on the third Wednesday of September, usually before school and usually at the school's flagpole. It involves students in elementary schools, middle/junior high schools, high schools, and colleges/ universities all over the world. s often pray in support of the students on campus by gathering nearby, at their places of work or worship, or at city halls.

Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem
October 4, 2009
www.daytopray.com

The Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem is held on the first Sunday of every October with a call for sustained, fervent, informed and global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people. This worldwide grassroots prayer initiative coincides with the season of Yom Kippur, recognizing the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. It has been instituted with the endorsement of Christian leaders of all denominations and differing politics from around the world. These Christian Leaders recognize that Scripture consistently and repeatedly calls us to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the current

tragedy, bloodshed, and loss of life in both sides of this conflict warrant at least one day of unified intercession from the worldwide Church for this strategic spiritual location. Over 72 nations participated in representing tens of millions of Christians in united prayer during its first international observance, and each year, the number grows.

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 9, 2008

www.persecutedchurch.org

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians worldwide. Its primary focus is the work of intercessory prayer and citizen action on behalf of persecuted communities of the Christian faith. We also encourage prayer for the souls of the oppressors, the nations that promote persecution, and those who ignore it.

We believe that prayer changes things. Exactly what happens is a mystery of faith. God invites us to present to Him our requests and to pray without ceasing. Persecuted Christians often plead for prayer to help them endure. The most we can do is the least we can do: pray.

Worldwide Day of Extraordinary Prayer for Children and Schools

November 14, 2009

www.momsintouch.org

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Worldwide Host Site Locations

A four-hour event using a DVD format

Don't miss this unprecedented prayer event! Join Moms In Touch International as we stand shoulder to shoulder, exalting and glorifying God, singing songs of praise and uniting as one voice, with one heart, and in one Spirit.

Arise! Cry Out! to God with us for the spiritual transformation, the healing, the revival we know can come from Him alone. We anticipate God's powerful, life-changing presence. He promises, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

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EXHIBIT 103

Calendar No. 1324

82^D CONGRESS }
2^d Session }

SENATE

} REPORT
No. 1389

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

APRIL 2, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 382]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the resolution (H. J. Res. 382) directing the President to proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to direct the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer each year.

STATEMENT

From its beginning the United States of America has been a nation fully cognizant of the value and power of prayer. In the early days of colonization, the Pilgrims frequently engaged in prayer. When the delegates to the Constitutional Convention encountered difficulties in the writing and formation of a Constitution for this Nation, prayer was suggested and became an established practice at succeeding sessions. Today, both Houses of the Congress are opened daily with prayer.

Prayer has indeed been a vital force in the growth and development of this Nation. It would certainly be appropriate if, pursuant to this resolution and the proclamation it urges, the people of this country were to unite in a day of prayer each year, each in accordance with his own religious faith, thus reaffirming in a dramatic manner the deep religious conviction which has prevailed throughout the history of the United States.

○

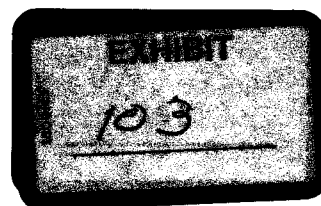


EXHIBIT 104

Truman Signs Prayer Day Bill

New York Times (1857-Current file); Apr 18, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2005 pg. 11

Truman Signs Prayer Day Bill

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP) — President Truman today signed a Congressional resolution calling for an annual day of prayer. The day to be designated by the President will be other than a Sunday. The purpose of the resolution is to have the public assemble in churches, synagogues and other places of worship to offer prayers for world peace.

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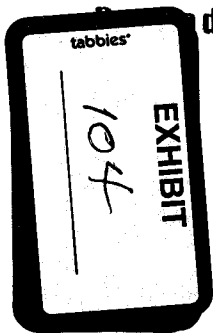


EXHIBIT 105

Freedom From Religion Foundation

News Release

Downward, Christian Soldiers: Godless Americans Become an American Force*March 9, 2009*

ONE OUT OF 5 AMERICANS NONRELIGIOUS! A GRADUAL AWAKENING?

Statement by Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker
Co-Presidents, Freedom From Religion Foundation

Maybe the United States' new motto should be "In God We Distrust," if we go by the latest findings of the definitive American Religious Identification Survey: 15%, or 34 million adult Americans--that's one in five of us*--are now nonreligious. The "Nones," as researchers are calling nonreligious Americans, have more than doubled our numbers since the 1990s.

In this bicentennial year of Darwin's birth, it is welcome news to see that "none of the above" is a natural selection. It may not rival the "Great Awakening," but the United States is clearly in the midst of a "Gradual Awakening," and catching up with Europe's embrace of secularism.

"The challenge to Christianity in the U.S. does not come from other religions but rather from a rejection of all forms of organized religion," said ARIS principal investigators Barry Kosmin and Ariela Keysar, working through Trinity College.

We may be seeing the first secular generation, according to these heartening findings. Some 29% of Nones are ages 18-29, and 41% are 30-49.

The ARIS' third survey, updating major academic surveys released in 1990 and 2001, was released yesterday, on the same date that Pres. Obama lifted the embargo on embryonic stem cell lines, making it a very good week for reason!

The "largest net increase" since the first ARIS survey in 1990 goes to the Nones. Also good news for freethought was this ARIS finding: "Less than 70% of Americans now believe in the traditional theological concept of a personal God."

The nonreligious were the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, according to the 2001 ARIS results, which showed the nonreligious climbing from 8.2% in 1990 to 14.1%. We are holding our own at 15% in 2008, since the Nones is the only group which did not show a decline since the last survey. The religiously-affiliated have declined overall, but since 2001, more than 4.7 million Americans have joined the ranks of the Nones.

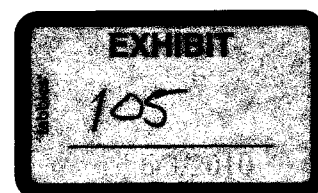
"The most significant influence on American religious geography over time has been the increase in the Nones, or No Religion bloc. . . . Moreover, the Nones increased in numbers and proportion in every state, Census Division and Region of the country from 1990 to 2008. No other religious bloc has kept such a pace in every state," write the researchers.

The United States of America started as a proudly rebellious nation. We are now turning our prized disrespect for authority to religion. It's "Downward, Christian Soldiers" and "Forward, Godless America!"

Recap of survey results

Read the report; check out your state's religious identification

** The authors of the study added the "don't know" (0.9 percent) and "refuse to answer" (4.1 percent)--which tend to resemble 'Nones' in their social profile and beliefs"--to the "Nones" (15.0 percent), coming up with 20 percent, concluding "one in five adults does not identify with a religion of any kind compared with one in ten in 1990."*



The Freedom From Religion Foundation, based in Madison, Wis., is a national association of freethinkers (atheists, agnostics) that has been working since 1978 to keep church and state separate.

Ⓢ **Freedom From Religion Foundation**

PO Box 750 · Madison, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · [contact us \(http://ffrf.org/contact\)](http://ffrf.org/contact)

EXHIBIT 106



CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL

Bill and Vonette Bright :: Campus Crusade for Christ International

- [Home](#)
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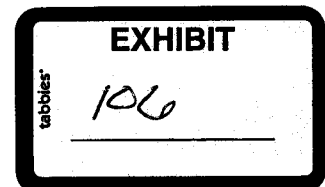
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Bill and Vonette Bright

Founders of Campus Crusade for Christ, International





In 1951, Bill and Vonette Bright pursued their passion for ministry by starting Campus Crusade for Christ at the University of California at Los Angeles.

What began with college students has since grown into one of the largest international Christian ministries in the world, reaching beyond students to serve inner cities, the military, athletes, political and business leaders, the entertainment industry, and families.

The Brights spent more than half a century building and leading Campus Crusade for Christ to its current size of more than 27,000 staff members and 225,000 volunteers working in 190 countries.

However, their influence has reached far beyond the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Bill Bright

Bill's unique blend of Christian commitment and communications insight was at the heart of his success.

His *Four Spiritual Laws booklet* -- a 4-point outline written by Bill in 1956 on how to establish a personal relationship with Jesus -- has been printed in some 200 languages.

Although religious tracts have been published for centuries, Bill's booklet has become what is considered to be the most widely-disseminated religious booklet in history, with more than 2.5 billion booklets distributed to date.

Bill effectively employed other communications vehicles over the years as well, including books (he authored more than 100 books and booklets), television and radio, the Internet, billboards, phone banks, movies, videos, and international training conferences reaching hundreds of millions.

Bill was considered a major catalyst for the modern-day resurgence of the disciplines of fasting and prayer in the Christian church.

In 1996, Bill was presented with the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, for his work with fasting and prayer. Worth more than \$1 million, the Templeton Prize is the world's largest financial annual award. Bill donated all of

his prize money to causes promoting the spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.

Bill also co-founded, with Dr. James Davis, the Global Pastors Network, an Internet-based training center at www.globalpastorsnetwork.org, designed to equip pastors and ministers worldwide with interactive resources, events, and networking opportunities.

Bill Bright died in 2003, from complications related to pulmonary fibrosis, at the age of 81.

Vonette Bright

Vonette's commitment to prayer led to the founding of the National Prayer Committee, a group of prayer leaders who seek to motivate other Christians to unite in prayer for spiritual awakening.

She served for 9 years as chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which encourages citizens to pray for our nation and its leaders on the National Day of Prayer.

In 1988, as chair, she was successful in introducing legislation unanimously approved by both houses of Congress to make the first Thursday of every May the permanent date for the National Day of Prayer.

Vonette currently serves as Chairman Emeritus of the National Prayer Committee.

Among her other work, Vonette has authored more than a dozen books, and in 1993, she launched Women Today International, a ministry to and for women.

Under her leadership, Women Today is responding to the needs of women to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Currently she can be heard on Christian radio stations throughout the country as she shares her heart and challenges women to take their next step of faith.

[Read Vonette's complete profile.](#)

Bill and Vonette -- Honored for Their Achievements

- Over the past 3 decades, Bill and Vonette Bright received numerous honors for their dedication and commitment to Christian ministry.
- In 1988, the Brights were inducted into the Religion in Media International Communication Galaxy of Fame at the International Angel Awards.
- Bill received the Lifetime Achievement Award from both the National Association of Evangelicals and the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association
- In 1992, Bill was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame.
- In 2000, Bill and Vonette were given the Lifetime Inspiration Award from Religious Heritage of America Foundation.
- After Bill died on July 19, 2003 in Orlando, Vonette was given the Robertson McQuilkin Award (presented by FamilyLife), an award which honors couples who exemplify their commitment to a covenant marriage in an age of divorce.

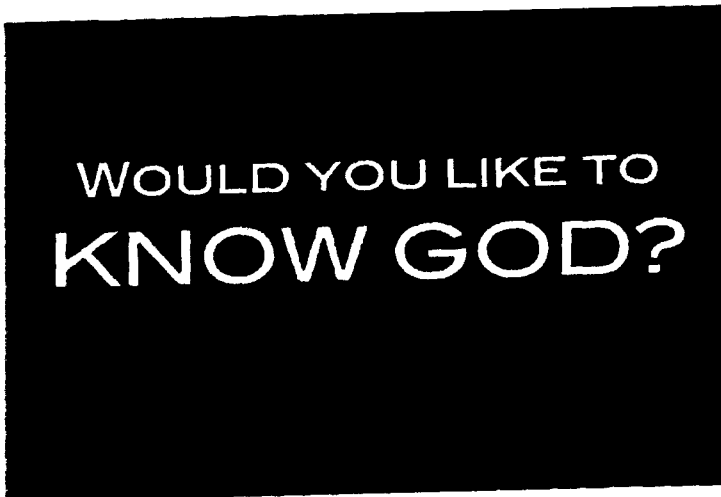
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Romanian Finds Jesus in College. Now Planting Church

Campus Crusade training helps family doctor plant a church in Rimnicu-Sarat



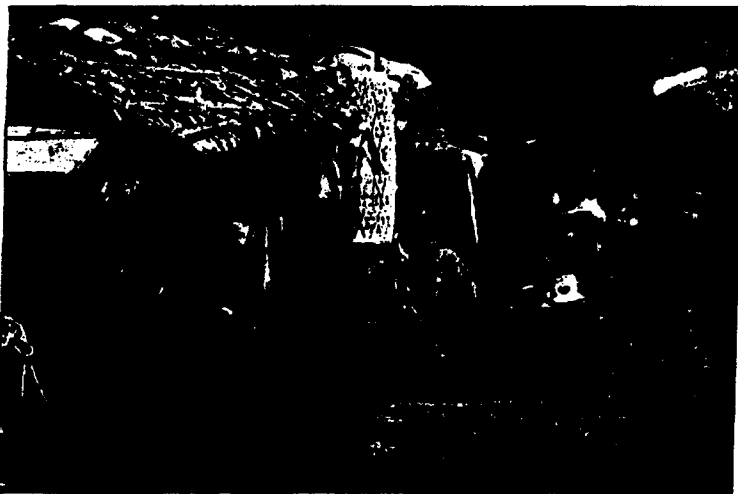
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You can begin a relationship with God right now through Jesus Christ



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Film showing in isolated African village connects many to the gospel



Cambodian Farmer Takes Message of JESUS to Village

Hopeful for his neighbors, Abraham puts his faith into action

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EXHIBIT 107

Westlaw

134 Cong.Rec. H2761-02

134 Cong. Rec. H2761-02, 1988 WL 1089378 (Cong.Rec.)

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

Congressional Record --- House of Representatives
Proceedings and Debates of the 100th Congress, Second Session
Monday, May 2, 1988

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Mr. DYMALLY.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1378) to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated.

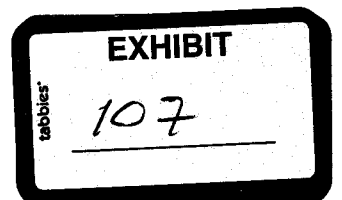
The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER.

Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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S. 1378

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the joint resolution entitled " Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer", approved April 17, 1952 (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64), is amended by striking "a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday," and inserting in lieu thereof "the first Thursday in May in each year".

The SPEAKER.

The gentleman from California <Mr. DYMALLY> is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DYMALLY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to briefly explain the purpose of S. 1378.

Unlike the commemorative resolutions we usually bring to the floor under unanimous consent, this bill does not designate a new public observance.

In 1952, Congress enacted a law calling for the observance of a National Day of Prayer each year. That law, however, did not designate a specific day. Instead, it required the President to set aside a "suitable day" each year for the observance.

S. 1378, sponsored in the House by Congressman TONY HALL of Ohio and cosponsored by the ranking majority member on our Census Subcommittee, Congressman GARCIA, simply amends the 1952 law to require that the National Day of Prayer be observed on the first Thursday of May each year.

Having a specific date in the law will allow those individuals who wish to participate in this long-standing public observance to plan accordingly, instead of having to wait for a suitable day to be chosen each year.

Mr. Speaker, since the first Thursday in May occurs this week, I urge timely passage of this bill today.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of **S. 1378**, the bill to designate the first Thursday in May as the annual date on which the National Day of Prayer is observed. As the sponsor of the House version of this legislation, H.R. 4170, I wish to commend the gentleman from California <Mr. DYMALLY> for his help in expediting this measure. I also wish to thank the other original sponsors, the gentleman from New York <Mr. GARCIA>, the gentleman from California <Mr. MOORHEAD>, and the gentleman from Virginia <Mr. WOLF> for their active work in behalf of this legislation. In particular, I wish to note the special assistance of the gentleman from New York <Mr. GARCIA> in bringing this bill to the attention of his colleagues on the Subcommittee on Census and Population.

Since 1952, by act of Congress (Public Law 82-324), the President has declared "a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday" as the National Day of Prayer. This year, the President has proclaimed May 5, 1988, as a National Day of Prayer. This will be the seventh straight year in which the event has been celebrated in May.

Our bill would amend the current law to set a definite date each year for the celebration of the National Day of Prayer: the first Thursday in May. This will help to bring more certainty to the scheduling of events related to the National Day of Prayer, and permit more effective long-range planning. Here are some sample comments we have received in support of this legislation:

I support this bill because it will support inter-religious cooperation without violating the traditional line between church and state.-Rabbi Joshua Haberman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

The annual observance would be so much easier to celebrate if its occurrence was not subject to the issuance of an annual proclamation. The event has a tradition of some consequence for increasing our nation's awareness of the need for divine assistance. I look forward to the day when this bill will be passed.-Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Rebman, Chancellor, Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware.

Since 1952, we have had consecutive observances with a different day being proclaimed each year. This had offered little advance notice to adequately inform the grass roots constituencies. I believe a definite date will allow millions of citizens within our nation who have explicit faith in a Prayer-hearing God to be informed about this significant day in our country.-Pat Boone, Co-chairman, National Prayer Committee.

It should be emphasized that this legislation does not create a new commemorative event; rather, we are proposing a technical correction to the current law to ensure consistent and dependable observance of the already-existing National Day of Prayer.

Although the statute which directs the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer has been on the books since 1952, the tradition of a national day of prayer observance really dates from the founding of our Nation. In fact, the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer issued from the Continental Congress on July 12, 1775. As the National Prayer Committee has written, "Through the influence of General George Washington, many of our Founding Fathers and succeeding Presidents, prayer became an essential foundation stone in the establishment and growth of our United States of America."

The first amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. * * *" The National Day of Prayer is very much in keeping with the pluralistic spirit of the "establishment" clause of the first amendment. No single religious group can claim ownership or control of the National Day of Prayer; rather, it truly belongs to all Americans who seek divine guidance for themselves and for the country.

The Founding Fathers of our Nation, although of different faiths, shared a deep and firm belief in God. They recognized the value and power of prayer, and they saw the intervention of Divine Providence in their lives as they went about the task of creating a new nation.

The National Day of Prayer is a celebration of the "free exercise" clause of the first amendment. Let us join in spirit with the Founding Fathers to acknowledge God's role in our lives and to turn to Him for personal and national guidance.

The passage of this bill today will help to ensure well-planned observance of the National Day of Prayer. With consistent observance over the years, the National Day of Prayer can become an even more meaningful occasion for our country. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

134 Cong. Rec. H2761-02, 1988 WL 1089378 (Cong.Rec.)

END OF DOCUMENT

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EXHIBIT 108

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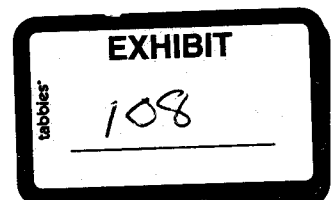
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134 Cong. Rec. H2761-02, 1988 WL 1089378 (Cong.Rec.)

END OF DOCUMENT

EXHIBIT 109

102 STAT. 456

PUBLIC LAW 100-307—MAY 5, 1988

Public Law 100-307
100th Congress

An Act

May 5, 1988
[S. 1378]

To provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated.

36 USC 169h.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the joint resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to provide for setting aside an appropriate day as a National Day of Prayer", approved April 17, 1952 (Public Law 82-324; 66 Stat. 64), is amended by striking "a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday," and inserting in lieu thereof "the first Thursday in May in each year".

Approved May 5, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1378:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):
Apr. 22, considered and passed Senate.
May 2, considered and passed House.

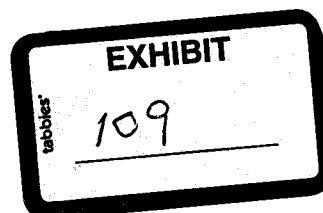


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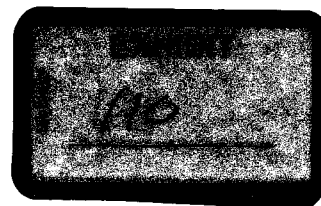


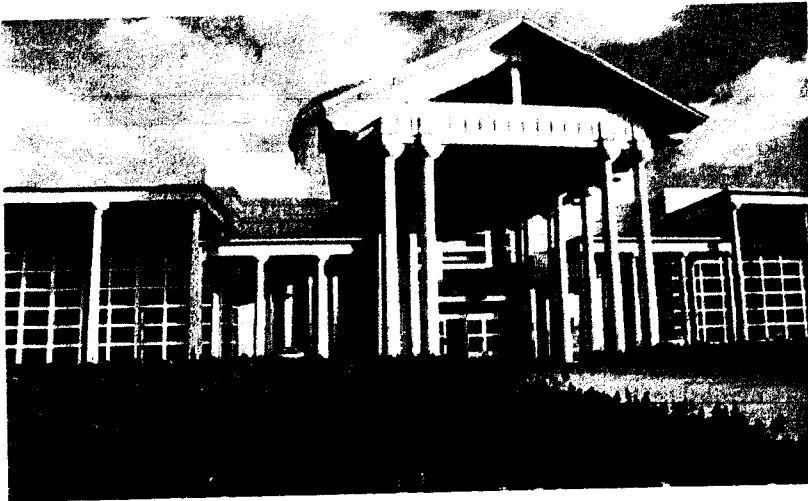
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Campus Crusade for Christ International at a Glance





President

Steve Douglass

Purpose

Helping to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others; and helping the Body of Christ do evangelism and discipleship

Vision Statement

Helping to build spiritual movements everywhere so everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus Christ

Values

Faith, fruitfulness and growth

Mission Statement

Launching spiritual movements by winning, building, and sending Christ-centered multiplying disciples

Year Established

1951, by Bill and Vonette Bright on the UCLA campus

International Presence

Ministry presence in 191 countries

Number of Staff Members

Over 25,000

International Headquarters

Orlando, Florida USA

Area Operational Offices

Accra, Ghana
Bamako, Mali
Bangalore, India
Budapest, Hungary
Kandern, Germany
Orlando, Florida United States of America
Paris, France
Pretoria, South Africa
Quezon City, Philippines
Singapore, Singapore
San Salvador, El Salvador
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Vancouver, British Columbia

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[Annual Report](#)

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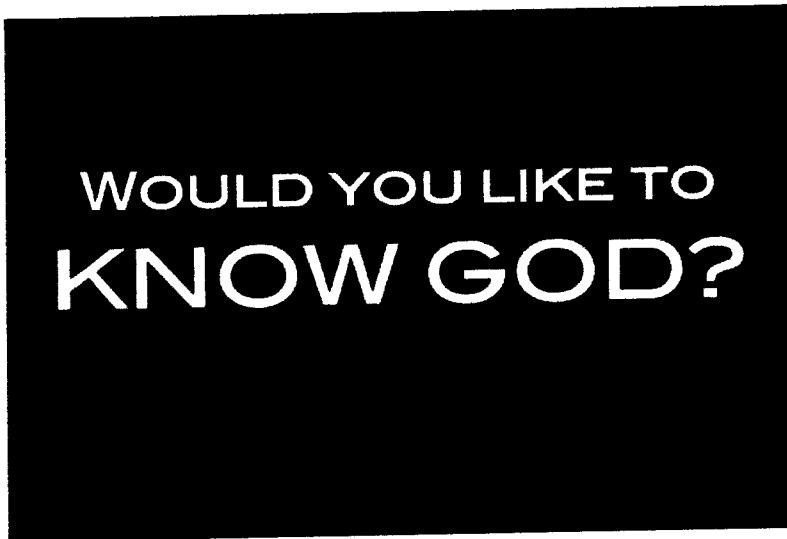
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Romanian Finds Jesus in College, Now Planting Church

Campus Crusade training helps family doctor plant a church in Rimnicu-Sarat



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EXHIBIT 111

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION
FOUNDATION, INC.; ANNIE |
NICOL GAYLOR; ANNIE LAURIE |
GAYLOR; PAUL GAYLOR; DAN |
BARKER; PHYLLIS ROSE, and |
JILL DEAN, |

Plaintiffs, |

vs. |

CASE NO.: 08-CV-588 |

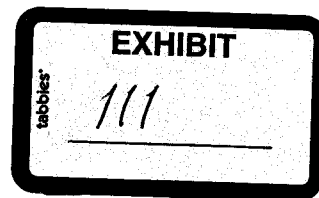
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA; |
WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY |
ROBERT GIBBS; WISCONSIN |
GOVERNOR JIM DOYLE, and |
SHIRLEY DOBSON, CHAIRMAN OF |
THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER |
TASK FORCE, |

Defendants. |

DEPOSITION OF SHIRLEY DOBSON

November 10, 2009

PURSUANT TO NOTICE, the deposition of SHIRLEY DOBSON was taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, at 8605 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, this date at 8:36 a.m., before Connie S. Dyke, RPR, CRR, and Notary Public.



Page 2

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 9 rbolton@boardmanlawfirm.com
 10 ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANTS, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA and
 11 WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY ROBERT GIBBS:
 12
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 bellaviatc@doj.state.wi.us

Page 4

1 SHIRLEY DOBSON,
 2 called as a witness, having been first duly sworn,
 3 testified as follows:
 4 EXAMINATION
 5 BY MR. BOLTON:
 6 Q. Mrs. Dobson, you're currently the chairman or
 7 cochairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force;
 8 that correct?
 9 A. Chairman.
 10 Q. And you've held that position since 1991?
 11 A. Correct.
 12 Q. For convenience, when I refer to the "National
 13 Day of Prayer Task Force" throughout the deposition, I
 14 think I'm probably going to just try to refer to it as
 15 the task force for shorthand. Is that okay?
 16 A. (Witness indicating in the affirmative.)
 17 Q. Would it be fair to describe one of the goals
 18 of the task force is to encourage prayer?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 MR. THERIOT: Shirley, I should interject
 21 here. We didn't talk about this, but nodding your head
 22 doesn't work because she can't -- she does actually
 23 take that down, but it's better if you give a verbal
 24 answer.
 25 THE WITNESS: Okay.

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1 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Has that always been one of
 2 the goals of the task force?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Were you involved in the establishment or the
 5 setting up of the task force?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Who was involved in the original formation of
 8 the task force?
 9 A. It would be the National Prayer Committee with
 10 my approval.
 11 Q. Say the name again.
 12 A. The National Prayer Committee with my
 13 approval.
 14 Q. With your approval, okay. And the task force
 15 was set up in 1988; is that correct?
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. And when you say that it was set up by "the
 18 National Prayer Committee with your approval," what do
 19 you mean, first of all, by the description "with your
 20 approval"? What was your role in having approval?
 21 A. Well, I would interview the candidates for the
 22 task force and approve them.
 23 Q. Had the task force been created as an entity
 24 of that name at the time that you gave this approval to
 25 the people that you interviewed?

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1 A. I took over in 1991, and there was a task
 2 force then, and it has grown under my leadership.
 3 Q. Did you have any role in the task force prior
 4 to 1991?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Did Mr. Dobson have any role in the task force
 7 prior to 1991?
 8 A. Not at all.
 9 Q. Did Mr. Dobson have any role with the National
 10 Prayer Committee?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Do you know how it came about that the prayer
 13 committee undertook to set up the task force?
 14 A. No, I don't know.
 15 Q. Do you know anything about the history of the
 16 task force prior to you becoming the chairman in
 17 1991?
 18 A. Not really.
 19 Q. When the task force was originally
 20 established, do you know where it was located?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Where was that?
 23 A. In San Bernardino, California, under the
 24 direction of Mrs. Vonette Bright.
 25 Q. And when did it move to Colorado Springs?

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1 A. When I accepted the chairmanship.
 2 Q. And it has been here ever since; is that
 3 correct?
 4 A. Correct.
 5 Q. And it's located on the campus of Focus on the
 6 Family; is that correct?
 7 A. That's correct.
 8 Q. When the task force was originally
 9 established, did Focus on the Family provide any of the
 10 start-up money for the task force?
 11 A. The board did.
 12 Q. Pardon me?
 13 A. The Focus on the Family board did.
 14 Q. You said the Focus on the Family board?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Meaning individual members of the Focus on the
 17 Family board?
 18 A. No. The whole board voted that when I took
 19 over the chairmanship, that they would give me seed
 20 money to get me started, which is not unusual. They
 21 give seed money to several ministries to get them off
 22 the ground.
 23 Q. And do you know how much seed money was
 24 given?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. How much?
 2 A. First year, \$100,000; second year, \$50,000;
 3 third year, \$25,000, and then I was on the -- the task
 4 force was on their own.
 5 Q. Has Focus on the Family continued since then
 6 to make a decision to provide funding --
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. -- to the task force?
 9 A. We're totally on our own.
 10 MR. THERIOT: One more thing. We didn't talk
 11 about this either, but you should wait until he
 12 finishes asking his question so you know exactly what
 13 he's asking before you answer.
 14 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) When you took over as chairman
 15 of the task force in 1991, I assume that you were
 16 previously familiar with the task force; is that
 17 correct?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And when did you become aware of the task
 20 force?
 21 A. I would say 1988.
 22 Q. And how did you become aware?
 23 A. Mrs. Bright asked me if I would be her
 24 cochairman.
 25 Q. And what did you say?

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1 A. I said I would pray about it and talk to my
 2 husband and get back to her.
 3 Q. And did you?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And what was your response?
 6 A. I accepted it.
 7 Q. Okay. And that was in 1991?
 8 A. No. When I became her cochairman was in
 9 1989.
 10 Q. I'm sorry. So you became the chairman in
 11 1991, but you were a cochair beginning in 1989?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. And at that point, the task force had already
 14 been established as an entity; is that correct?
 15 A. Small task force.
 16 Q. And prior to becoming the cochair in 1989,
 17 what did you learn about the origin and purposes for
 18 the task force?
 19 MR. ROSENBERG: Object as to form.
 20 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Let me rephrase the question.
 21 Had you learned anything about the history of the task
 22 force and how it came about prior to becoming the
 23 cochair in 1989?
 24 A. No.
 25 Q. You knew nothing about it?

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1 A. Not before I became cochair.
 2 Q. When Mrs. Bright asked you in 1988 if you
 3 would be a cochair, did she tell you anything about the
 4 task force?
 5 A. Not really about the task force. We talked
 6 about the need for prayer in our country.
 7 Q. And did you have any understanding that the
 8 task force was to play a role in encouraging prayer in
 9 our nation?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And what did you understand at least the
 12 original intended role was?
 13 A. To help promote and publicize prayer in our
 14 nation on the National Day of Prayer.
 15 Q. Now, obviously you consider prayer to be
 16 important not just on the National Day of Prayer,
 17 correct?
 18 A. Correct.
 19 Q. The task force, as you understood it, was to
 20 promote and encourage the role of prayer mobilizing
 21 around the National Day of Prayer?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. What is your understanding as to why prayer is
 24 important?
 25 A. Well, we base it on the scripture which says

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1 that, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,"
 2 and prayer is powerful. It moves the heart and the
 3 hand of God. It brings blessing and protection on the
 4 nation.
 5 Q. Do you understand the United States to be a
 6 Christian nation?
 7 A. It was founded on the Judeo-Christian system
 8 of values.
 9 Q. And are those values incorporated into our
 10 government then?
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 Q. Do you believe that there is a role for our
 13 public officials to promote and encourage prayer?
 14 A. I have no idea how they feel about it.
 15 Q. Do you believe that that is an appropriate
 16 role for public officials?
 17 A. No, I think it's optional. It's up to them.
 18 Q. When you talk about the role of prayer in our
 19 nation, is it a particular type of prayer that you
 20 believe is important?
 21 A. This country was founded -- it was birthed in
 22 prayer and founded on the God of the Bible, on His
 23 biblical principles and His moral values and the
 24 Judeo-Christian system of values. So our particular
 25 task force is the expression -- the Judeo-Christian

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1 expression of the National Day of Prayer. Other faiths
 2 may have their own expression. This is how we
 3 celebrate the National Day of Prayer.
 4 Q. And that would be the position of the task
 5 force, not just your personal position, correct?
 6 A. That's right.
 7 Q. And when you say "birthed in prayer" in regard
 8 to the origin of our nation, what do you mean by
 9 that?
 10 A. Well, our founding fathers that came over here
 11 and the people that came over here from England, if you
 12 look in the history, there was much prayer before they
 13 came. And when they came and landed safely, the first
 14 thing they did was pray.
 15 Q. And it was Christian prayer?
 16 A. I don't know what kind of prayer it was.
 17 Q. When you say that the role of prayer in our
 18 country needs to be -- and I'll talk about back in the
 19 formative years of 1989 for the task force -- that the
 20 role of prayer in our nation needed to be promoted and
 21 encouraged; is that fair?
 22 A. In 1952, under President Truman, he signed a
 23 resolution with both houses of Congress, signed into
 24 law, that we would have a National Day of Prayer. And
 25 then in 1988, under President Ronald Reagan, he signed

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1 into law that the first Thursday would be our National
 2 Day of Prayer. So we are celebrating the National Day
 3 of Prayer, that's what our event is on that day, and
 4 then we encourage prayer throughout the year.
 5 Q. And what do you understand is the value of
 6 prayer in terms of our nation?
 7 A. Prayer, I believe, is putting a protective
 8 covering over our nation.
 9 Q. A protective what?
 10 A. Covering over our nation. In Psalms, it says,
 11 "The shields of the earth belong to the Lord." So it
 12 is God that protects us and blesses us, and we believe
 13 that prayer plays a large part in that.
 14 Q. Now, in regard to the National Day of Prayer
 15 itself, do you have any understanding that it is
 16 intended to promote any particular viewpoint or type of
 17 prayer?
 18 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 19 speculation. You may answer.
 20 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection as to form.
 21 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You can answer that.
 22 A. Can you restate it?
 23 Q. The National Day of Prayer itself, not the
 24 task force, do you have any understanding that the
 25 designated day is intended to promote any particular

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1 form of prayer?
 2 A. No. Congress set aside this day for the
 3 American people of all faiths, and all faiths are
 4 encouraged to pray in their own tradition.
 5 Q. Your particular organization, the task force,
 6 though, is encouraging prayer based on the
 7 Christian-Judeo precepts; is that correct?
 8 A. We are the expression of the
 9 Judeo-Christian -- I mean, we are the Judeo-Christian
 10 expression of the National Day of Prayer.
 11 Q. Is it fair to say that the task force's
 12 position is that not all prayer, from the perspective
 13 of the task force, is fungible or interchangeable? The
 14 prayer that you're promoting, you're promoting as an
 15 alternative or in preference to other types of prayer
 16 for other religions; is that correct?
 17 MR. THERIOT: Objection as to form, vague.
 18 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Do you consider prayer to be
 20 fungible? Do you understand what I mean by that?
 21 A. No.
 22 Q. Is all prayer the same?
 23 A. God has to be the judge of that.
 24 Q. Do you believe that all prayer is the same?
 25 A. Well, as I said, our expression is the

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1 Judeo-Christian, so we pray to the God of the Bible.
 2 Q. And based on your beliefs, that is the correct
 3 God that you believe in and the God that should be
 4 prayed to; is that correct?
 5 A. That's my belief.
 6 Q. With regard to the National Day of Prayer Task
 7 Force, were you at all involved in the naming of the
 8 organization?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. Certainly there's nothing in the name of the
 11 entity itself, National Day of Prayer Task Force, that
 12 would indicate the organization's expression of the
 13 Christian-Judeo point of view; is that correct?
 14 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 15 speculation. You may answer.
 16 A. Can you restate the question?
 17 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Is there anything in the
 18 National Day of Prayer Task Force, in the name of the
 19 entity, that would indicate the Christian-Judeo
 20 perspective that the task force holds?
 21 A. On our Website.
 22 Q. Pardon me?
 23 A. I think it does on our Website, that we are
 24 the Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of
 25 Prayer.

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1 Q. Just the title itself, though, if I don't go
 2 to your Website and just hear National Day of Prayer
 3 Task Force, there's nothing that would alert me to the
 4 Christian-Judeo orientation of the organization,
 5 correct?
 6 A. I don't know how a person would see that.
 7 Q. With regard to the phrase "task force," do you
 8 have any understanding of how that -- well, let me ask
 9 more broadly. Do you know how the naming of the
 10 organization, National Day of Prayer Task Force, came
 11 about?
 12 MR. THERIOT: Objection, asked and answered.
 13 You can answer.
 14 A. Probably through the National Prayer
 15 Committee.
 16 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) More specifically, though, do
 17 you know how the particular words to name the entity
 18 were selected?
 19 A. Well, the employees that worked for National
 20 Day of Prayer, you wouldn't call it National Day of
 21 Prayer employees, so you call it a task force.
 22 Q. And what is your understanding of what a task
 23 force is?
 24 A. We promote and publicize and provide resources
 25 to constituents to help them celebrate the National Day

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1 of Prayer if they ask for it, if they call and ask for
 2 resources.
 3 Q. Is that how you would describe then the task
 4 that is being described in the title?
 5 A. Well, the task force has many tasks. That is
 6 just a few of them.
 7 Q. What are the other tasks of the task force?
 8 A. We have state coordinators and regional
 9 coordinators, and they help them set up their events,
 10 if they need help, if they need promotional
 11 materials.
 12 Q. Now, obviously, the promotion, encouragement
 13 of prayer, could be done year-round, correct?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. And it can be done without reference to a
 16 particular day designated by the President; is that
 17 correct?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. Is it advantageous to the task force to have
 20 the connection to the designated day of prayer in terms
 21 of promoting and encouraging prayer?
 22 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague. You may
 23 answer, if you can.
 24 A. Can you restate the question?
 25 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Does the connection to the

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1 National Day of Prayer provide any benefits to the task
 2 force in promoting and encouraging prayer?
 3 A. We believe that prayer should be 365 days a
 4 year, but the National Day of Prayer has been set aside
 5 by Congress, and we believe that on this day we should
 6 gather as to however anybody wants to gather, and that
 7 we should celebrate the National Day of Prayer. We
 8 encourage all Americans to pray according to their
 9 faith. Muslims could have a National Day of Prayer
 10 Task Force, the Hindus can have a National Day of
 11 Prayer Task Force, and the Christians can have a
 12 National Day of Prayer Task Force. That's what our
 13 expression is.
 14 Q. And is that expression that the task force --
 15 A. Judeo-Christian expression, yes.
 16 Q. And these other religions you talked about,
 17 those are not promoted by the task force?
 18 A. We are a privately funded 501(c)(3). Our
 19 volunteers and constituents are of that persuasion, and
 20 so we -- that's our expression of the National Day of
 21 Prayer, but we don't exclude any other faith from
 22 joining us.
 23 Q. Does the government support for the National
 24 Day of Prayer, is it helpful to the task force in terms
 25 of adding prestige to your effort?

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1 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection, referring to what
 2 the government support is, if there's any at all.
 3 A. There's not any government support other than
 4 participation, if they choose to participate.
 5 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Do you believe that government
 6 participation in National Day of Prayer activities
 7 facilitates the task force in its endeavors?
 8 A. The scriptures say, in 1 Timothy 2, that we're
 9 to pray for all kings and all those in authority, that
 10 we may lead a peaceful and quiet and godly life. So,
 11 yes, I think it's beneficial if members of government
 12 participate, but that is totally up to them.
 13 Q. And it adds a certain element of credibility
 14 to the endeavors of the task force, correct?
 15 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 16 speculation.
 17 MR. ROSENBERG: And as to form.
 18 A. I don't know.
 19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) But you have said that you
 20 believe it adds credibility, correct?
 21 A. I didn't say that.
 22 Q. I'm asking a question. Do you believe it adds
 23 credibility to the task force?
 24 A. I don't know.
 25 Q. Do you believe it adds prestige to the task

Page 20

1 force?
 2 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 3 speculation.
 4 MR. ROSENBERG: And same objection. I don't
 5 know what "it" is.
 6 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Can you answer the question?
 7 A. I don't know.
 8 MR. THERIOT: You don't know the answer to the
 9 question, or you can't answer the question? I'm
 10 sorry.
 11 MR. BOLTON: I had the same question in my
 12 mind.
 13 MR. THERIOT: You don't know the answer to the
 14 question, is that what you're saying?
 15 A. I don't know how that's seen.
 16 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Certainly the task force
 17 encourages the participation of government officials in
 18 National Day of Prayer activities, correct?
 19 A. We have an initiative that we pray for the
 20 seven centers of power, and that is the government, the
 21 military, the media, business, education, family and
 22 church. And so on the National Day of Prayer, we pray
 23 for all of those centers of power, and government is
 24 one of them.
 25 Q. In addition to praying for government, though,

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1 do you encourage participation of government officials
 2 in the various activities that you organize?
 3 A. We hope they'll participate.
 4 Q. But you do more than just leave it to hope,
 5 correct?
 6 A. We write them requesting a proclamation for
 7 the National Day of Prayer, but there's no demand put
 8 on them.
 9 Q. Whether there's a demand or not, though, you
 10 certainly seek out participation by the President and
 11 by governors to issue proclamations, correct?
 12 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague as to the
 13 meaning of "participation." You may answer it.
 14 THE WITNESS: Can I say something off the
 15 record? Is that allowable?
 16 MR. THERIOT: No. When we take a break, we
 17 can talk.
 18 A. Do you want to restate the question?
 19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) There are no secrets on the
 20 record.
 21 A. No. I was going to ask everybody the
 22 question. Do you want to restate that question,
 23 please?
 24 MR. BOLTON: Can you read the question back?
 25 (The requested question was read back by the

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1 reporter.)
 2 A. I would say yes.
 3 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) And the task force also at
 4 least attempts to get additional participation by
 5 government officials in the activities that the task
 6 force organizes; is that correct?
 7 A. We hope that they will participate. This day
 8 is set aside to pray for America and its leaders, and
 9 since government is in the role of leadership, we hope
 10 they will participate. It sets a good example for the
 11 nation.
 12 Q. And do you just sit back and see if it
 13 happens, or does the task force actually undertake to
 14 obtain such participation from government officials?
 15 A. We write a letter requesting a proclamation,
 16 and then there's one follow-up visit from the state
 17 coordinator of that governor to the office to see if he
 18 is going to write a proclamation. Some do and some
 19 don't.
 20 Q. Recently all the governors have been issuing
 21 proclamations; is that correct?
 22 A. Yes. That's wonderful.
 23 Q. And was that the case before you became the
 24 chairman of the task force?
 25 A. No. Under my leadership -- and I take no

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1 credit for this. God has really blessed the efforts of
 2 the National Day of Prayer, so I think more people know
 3 about it. I think in the times that we're living, we
 4 see a great need for prayer, and I think our leaders
 5 see that also.
 6 Q. Do you believe the task force has been
 7 influential in this growth in government officials'
 8 participation in National Day of Prayer activities?
 9 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 10 A. I don't see how, because we just write a
 11 letter requesting a proclamation.
 12 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) It must be a really good
 13 letter. Who writes the letter?
 14 A. I have help. We have an organization here
 15 called Master Writers, and I work with them in crafting
 16 the letter.
 17 Q. And you work with them directly?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And the letters that you're talking about, are
 20 they letters that are signed by yourself?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And then the state coordinators then follow up
 23 with government officials trying to encourage
 24 participation; is that correct?
 25 A. One follow-up.

Page 24

1 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection again.
 2 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) One follow-up with the
 3 governor, correct?
 4 A. Well, they usually don't get to see the
 5 governor. They see his scheduler or his aide or
 6 whatever you call it, but they don't -- I don't know of
 7 anybody that's gotten -- well, maybe some have, but
 8 can't give a name of anybody that sat down with the
 9 governor and said, Would you write a proclamation?
 10 It's like the President. You don't get that far.
 11 Q. Now, the letter that you prepare with Master
 12 Writers, do you send that letter also to local
 13 government officials?
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. Is there any effort by the task force to
 16 involve local government officials in National Day of
 17 Prayer activities?
 18 A. All of our workers are volunteers,
 19 coordinators are volunteers. They're not paid. We
 20 have state coordinators that are volunteers, and we
 21 have regional coordinators that are volunteers. So
 22 some of the regional volunteers may ask the mayor or
 23 the city council members or school board members if
 24 they would like to participate in the National Day of
 25 Prayer, but I have nothing to do with that.

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1 Q. But they do it under the auspices of the task
 2 force though, correct?
 3 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 4 speculation.
 5 A. I don't know.
 6 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You've got state coordinators
 7 and then regional coordinators?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. A regional coordinator, is that a broader
 10 geographic scope than a state, or is it regional within
 11 the states?
 12 A. It's regional within the states. Usually
 13 communities, cities.
 14 Q. When you began as the cochair in 1989, how
 15 many employees were there of the task force?
 16 A. Well, Campus Crusade for Christ is a ministry
 17 of Dr. Bill and Vonette Bright, so they used a lot of
 18 their staff, I'm sure, to help -- as part of the task
 19 force to help promote the National Day of Prayer. So I
 20 don't really know how many.
 21 Q. The task force does at the present time have
 22 full-time employees, correct?
 23 A. That's correct.
 24 Q. Do you know about how many full-time employees
 25 the task force has at this time?

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1 A. I think we have about ten.
 2 Q. And they are full-time?
 3 A. I think we have one part-time.
 4 Q. And then in 2009, you would have had one state
 5 coordinator for each state, correct?
 6 A. I'm not sure, because they kind of come and
 7 go. So we have somebody that's over the state
 8 coordinators, and she would be able to tell you that.
 9 Q. Do you know how many volunteers altogether,
 10 approximate number of volunteers, you had acting on
 11 behalf of the task force in respect to the 2009
 12 National Day of Prayer?
 13 A. We have no idea how many people are actually
 14 planning an event on the National Day of Prayer. For
 15 instance, I know of a lady that invited six of her
 16 friends to get in her van on the National Day of Prayer
 17 and they went to the police department, fire
 18 department, the school board, the mayor's office, and
 19 at each place they stopped and prayed for them. So
 20 those kind of things are generally not reported, but I
 21 would say probably we have between 30- to 40,000 prayer
 22 gatherings across the nation. And as I said, many of
 23 them -- many churches don't report that they've
 24 celebrated the National Day of Prayer. We have no
 25 idea.

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1 Q. Are the state coordinators encouraged to
 2 organize activities in the state capitols in which they
 3 operate?
 4 A. That's up to them.
 5 Q. Are they encouraged to organize activities in
 6 the state capitols?
 7 A. If there are other events on the state capitol
 8 steps, some choose to have their event there. Some
 9 choose to have them in the state parks, churches,
 10 homes.
 11 Q. A statehouse, is that a preferred location for
 12 activities, if it can be done?
 13 A. Some feel like -- some coordinators may feel
 14 like it is and some may feel like it's not.
 15 Q. In 2009, do you know how many National Day of
 16 Prayer activities occurred at statehouses?
 17 A. I have no idea.
 18 Q. Well, you do know, in addition to presidential
 19 and gubernatorial proclamations, that some local
 20 officials now also issue proclamations, correct?
 21 A. I've heard that.
 22 Q. Who did you hear that from?
 23 A. It's just been rumored. I mean, I've heard
 24 that some mayors do. I couldn't give you a name. They
 25 typically don't send the proclamation to us. We never

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1 see them.
 2 Q. But you do know as a fact, though, that there
 3 are additional proclamations issued at lower government
 4 levels than just the president and the governor levels,
 5 correct?
 6 A. I really don't know.
 7 Q. With regard to the proclamations issued by the
 8 governors, my understanding is that in 2009 and in at
 9 least 2008, all the governors issued proclamations.
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. And all of those proclamations designated a
 12 day of prayer, correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And all of them designated a National Day of
 15 Prayer that has been set aside by the President; is
 16 that correct?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. And, in fact, the task force encourages the
 19 governors to designate the same day as a day of prayer
 20 as the date set aside by the President, correct?
 21 A. We request it.
 22 Q. In 1988, President Reagan signed a law whereby
 23 the President is required to designate the first
 24 Thursday in May of each year as the National Day of
 25 Prayer; is that correct?

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1 A. He signed in law that the first Thursday of
 2 May would be our nation's day of prayer, our National
 3 Day of Prayer, and he encouraged people of all faiths
 4 to participate in it.
 5 Q. The encouragement of all faiths to participate
 6 in it, that wasn't part of the law that he signed,
 7 though; is that correct?
 8 A. I don't remember what the law said. I would
 9 have to have somebody read it to me.
 10 Q. But, basically, it was from that point forward
 11 that there became a predictable date each year for the
 12 National Day of Prayer, correct?
 13 A. Correct.
 14 Q. Prior to that, the presidents were required to
 15 declare a National Day of Prayer after 1952 going
 16 forward, but no one knew exactly when it was going to
 17 be until the President actually did it, correct?
 18 A. Correct.
 19 Q. Having a predictable date makes it easier to
 20 organize activities in respect to the National Day of
 21 Prayer; is that correct?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. For instance, a task force like yours would
 24 have trouble mobilizing the support for the National
 25 Day of Prayer if you didn't know well in advance when

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1 it was going to be, correct?
 2 A. Correct.
 3 Q. The task force was created in 1988. Was it
 4 created before or after President Reagan signed into
 5 law the requirement that it be on the first Thursday in
 6 May?
 7 A. I don't know. I wasn't part of it then.
 8 Q. Were you at all aware that the creation of a
 9 task force was being discussed prior to its actual
 10 formation?
 11 A. No.
 12 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Did you have any involvement
 15 personally in lobbying for having a date certain
 16 specified for the National Day of Prayer?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. Was Mr. Dobson involved in any such effort?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Was anyone involved in such an effort that you
 21 knew?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Who?
 24 A. Mrs. Vonette Bright.
 25 Q. Mrs. Bright?

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1 A. Mrs. Vonette Bright.
 2 Q. And how do you know that?
 3 A. Because she told me. She told me how the day
 4 came about, the first Thursday of May.
 5 Q. And what did she tell you specifically?
 6 A. Well, she told me that she got up at 5 in the
 7 morning.
 8 Q. She told you what?
 9 A. She got up at 5 in the morning -- she lives in
 10 California -- and she called a couple of congressmen
 11 and there was a rabbi involved, and they began to talk
 12 about the possibility of setting a day for the National
 13 Day of Prayer. And so I guess -- I don't know, but
 14 perhaps a committee was formed and it came out of
 15 that.
 16 Q. And do you know the names of any of the
 17 congressional officials that she contacted?
 18 A. I don't recall that.
 19 Q. Was Strom Thurmond one of the backers of that
 20 legislation?
 21 A. I don't recall.
 22 Q. So did she tell you why she was actively
 23 trying to get such legislation passed?
 24 A. Well, of course, I'm sure she believed in the
 25 power of prayer, she believed that we should have a day

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1 in this country where we cover this nation in prayer
 2 and the leaders. That was her heart, and she wanted to
 3 help facilitate that, if it was possible.
 4 Q. But there already was a requirement that there
 5 be a day of prayer designated by the President, it just
 6 wasn't precise when it would be; is that correct?
 7 A. That's correct.
 8 Q. Did she tell you why she wanted to have a date
 9 certain specified?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. When did she tell you about her efforts?
 12 A. Well, she told me in 1988 when I became
 13 cochairman. But she also at various times, since she
 14 is the cochairman, speaks on behalf of the National Day
 15 of Prayer and just gives the history on how the day was
 16 set.
 17 Q. Were you aware, prior to being told by
 18 Mrs. Bright, that the President had set this particular
 19 day? Were you aware of that legislation having been
 20 signed by the President?
 21 A. I was not.
 22 Q. The National Prayer Committee, what is your
 23 understanding of what that entity is?
 24 A. Well, first of all, I am -- I guess I would
 25 say that I am the name, the voice and the face of the

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1 National Day of Prayer. I'm the visible one for the
 2 National Day of Prayer Task Force. I don't really have
 3 a lot of knowledge about how the National Prayer
 4 Committee came together. You would have to really ask
 5 the chairman. I'm sorry. He's called the president,
 6 not the chairman.
 7 Q. Pardon me?
 8 A. The president, David Butts, B-u-t-t-s.
 9 Q. And he's the president of the National Prayer
 10 Committee?
 11 A. David Butts.
 12 Q. And you said the title is president of the
 13 National Prayer Committee?
 14 A. National Prayer Committee, yes.
 15 Q. And how long has he been the president?
 16 A. I don't know.
 17 Q. As long as you can remember? I mean, it's not
 18 just --
 19 A. No, there's been other presidents.
 20 Q. Okay. And are you telling me, in terms of the
 21 National Prayer Committee, at least just in a general
 22 sense, what it is and what it does, you do not have any
 23 knowledge?
 24 A. I know it's made up of different prayer
 25 ministries, people that have different prayer

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1 ministries, and those people are listed on the back of
 2 our letterhead, because we're accountable to the
 3 National Prayer Committee.
 4 Q. And the National Prayer Committee was formed
 5 in 1982; is that correct?
 6 A. I'm not sure.
 7 Q. Do you know whether it was formed relatively
 8 close in time to when the task force was set up?
 9 A. I don't know.
 10 Q. Does it have any purpose? Do you know,
 11 generally, what the purpose of the National Prayer
 12 Committee is?
 13 A. I'm sure they have a purpose statement. I
 14 haven't read it.
 15 Q. If somebody asked you outside of a deposition
 16 room what the purpose of the National Prayer Committee
 17 is, would you have any at least a general answer that
 18 you could give them?
 19 A. I would think it would be to mobilize prayer.
 20 We are a project of the National Prayer Committee, but
 21 also the global day of prayer is a project of the
 22 National Prayer Committee, and they have other projects
 23 to mobilize prayer.
 24 Q. Now, when you say the task force is a product
 25 of the prayer committee, what do you mean by that?

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1 A. We're accountable to them. We're not a
 2 product. We're actually a project, j-e-c-t.
 3 Q. Product? I'm not hearing you. I'm sorry.
 4 A. A project.
 5 Q. Okay. A project?
 6 A. Not a product but a project.
 7 Q. Project, okay. But in terms of the
 8 organization of the task force, that was accomplished
 9 by the prayer committee though; is that correct?
 10 A. I'm not clear on your question.
 11 Q. Well, when you say that you're a project of
 12 the prayer committee, what do you mean by that?
 13 A. Well, we're accountable to them. We're under
 14 them. They're an umbrella for us.
 15 Q. So ultimately as the chairman of the task
 16 force, you are accountable to the prayer committee; is
 17 that correct?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. Are there other entities that are accountable
 20 to the prayer committee?
 21 A. I'm not aware of them. They have other
 22 projects.
 23 Q. And in terms of the accountability that the
 24 task force has to the prayer committee, is that
 25 something that's specified in the organizational setup

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1 of the task force?
 2 A. I haven't seen that. I haven't seen any
 3 paperwork on that.
 4 Q. You just understand it to be the case?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. You haven't seen bylaws or anything like that?
 7 Does the task force have bylaws?
 8 MR. ROSENBERG: Object as to form. It's
 9 compound.
 10 A. You would have to ask the executive director
 11 of the task force.
 12 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You've never seen bylaws for
 13 the task force; is that correct?
 14 A. I've seen a lot of paperwork. I don't
 15 remember.
 16 Q. In any event, your working understanding is
 17 that the task force is accountable to the prayer
 18 committee, correct?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. In practice, what does that mean? How do they
 21 hold you accountable?
 22 A. Well, all of our funds are -- we have a CPA,
 23 and so all of our funds are looked at, and, of course,
 24 they meet with us once a year and keep in contact with
 25 us through e-mails and phone calls, and I imagine if we

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1 are not following the Judeo-Christian expression of the
 2 National Day of Prayer, they would -- they could really
 3 fire us, I guess. I don't take a salary. I volunteer
 4 my time, but I imagine they could just dissolve the
 5 task force.
 6 Q. So you understand the prayer committee to
 7 adhere to the Judeo-Christian orientation that you've
 8 described as the task force also adhering to; is that
 9 correct?
 10 A. That's correct.
 11 Q. Mission America, is that a name that you're
 12 familiar with?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. What is Mission America?
 15 A. I don't know. I know it's a prayer -- you
 16 know, it's a prayer ministry, but I don't know a lot
 17 about it. I know it's a project -- it's another
 18 project of -- I mean, I don't know if it's a project of
 19 the National Prayer Committee, but I know that the
 20 person that's in charge of it is a member of the
 21 National Prayer Committee.
 22 Q. The person in charge of Mission America is a
 23 board member of the prayer committee?
 24 A. I don't know that he's -- they have an
 25 executive board. I don't know that he's a board

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1 member.
 2 Q. In any event, there is a relationship then
 3 between Mission America and the prayer committee, to
 4 your understanding?
 5 A. I don't know.
 6 Q. Do you know why the prayer committee was
 7 established?
 8 A. The National Prayer Committee?
 9 Q. Right, the National Prayer Committee.
 10 A. I don't have an understanding of that. That
 11 was before my time.
 12 Q. And the origin of the National Prayer
 13 Committee is not something that you learned of
 14 subsequent to its creation? In other words, you said
 15 you weren't there at the time. Obviously, you know
 16 things that you weren't necessarily there to witness,
 17 correct?
 18 A. I don't recall.
 19 Q. In terms of the National Day of Prayer Task
 20 Force, you made reference to an executive director.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And who is the executive director of the task
 23 force?
 24 A. John Bornschein.
 25 Q. And what is the role of the executive

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1 director?
 2 A. He actually runs the administrative part of
 3 the task force.
 4 Q. You have people that are involved in media and
 5 marketing; is that correct?
 6 A. Correct.
 7 Q. How many people do you have that perform that
 8 function for the task force?
 9 A. Two.
 10 Q. And are they currently Becky Armstrong and
 11 Jamie Staler?
 12 A. Correct.
 13 Q. And what is their function? What do they do
 14 for the task force?
 15 A. Becky is part-time, Jamie is full-time, and
 16 they -- if they have anyone -- any of the media calling
 17 for an interview from me, they set that up. They help
 18 with our catalogs, with our promotional efforts, radio
 19 spots.
 20 Q. And do they prepare press releases?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And when the task force issues a press
 23 release, do they have an inventory of media that they
 24 send their press releases to?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Do you know about how many outlets they send
 2 their press releases to?
 3 A. I have no idea.
 4 Q. Is it quite a few?
 5 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 6 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You just have no idea at
 7 all?
 8 A. I can't speculate on that.
 9 Q. Does the task force have -- you've got,
 10 roughly, ten employees at this point, correct?
 11 A. Uh-huh.
 12 Q. And you've got a large number of volunteers
 13 that work at the state and regional levels?
 14 A. That's correct. And some volunteers that
 15 aren't connected with the state or the regional. I
 16 mean, they are just moms and pastors and whoever wants
 17 to plan an event for the National Day of Prayer.
 18 Q. You don't have members, correct?
 19 A. No. They're all volunteers.
 20 Q. Do you have any sort of a list of people that
 21 the task force regularly sends out by e-mail updates on
 22 what the task force is doing, sort of a web list?
 23 A. Yes, we have a -- I would say a Christian
 24 constituent base.
 25 Q. And what does that mean?

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1 A. People that -- well, we are privately funded,
 2 people that give, we have donors that give to the
 3 efforts of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, and
 4 we have many people that want to receive our mailings.
 5 They are constituents. Just like any ministry,
 6 National Day of Prayer is a ministry. We see it as a
 7 ministry to the nation.
 8 Q. Does the task force maintain a list of such
 9 people that it regularly communicates with by e-mail?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And do you know about how many people are on
 12 that list?
 13 A. I don't.
 14 Q. Does the task force prepare a newsletter?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And how often is the newsletter prepared?
 17 A. I think we send it out three times a year.
 18 It's an update.
 19 Q. And is that a hard copy, or is that sent
 20 electronically to the people that it's distributed
 21 to?
 22 A. I know we send out hard copies. I'm not sure
 23 about the electronics part of it. You would have to
 24 check with the executive director.
 25 Q. Do you know, approximately, what your current

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1 circulation is for the newsletter?
 2 A. You would have to ask the executive director.
 3 Q. Is it fair to say that you don't have any idea
 4 what the --
 5 A. I don't, because I'm not really -- you know,
 6 as I said, I'm the name, the face and the voice. I
 7 don't handle the administrative part of the office.
 8 I'm the visible face I guess you would say.
 9 Q. And about how much time do you spend on
 10 National Day of Prayer Task Force activities?
 11 A. Well, I'm a volunteer, so I always attend the
 12 managers' meetings to get an update. And mostly it's
 13 by e-mail. If they need to meet with them, I'm always
 14 available. I would say not a lot.
 15 Q. Is it less than when you began as the chair in
 16 1991?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. When you began in 1991, was it pretty much a
 19 full-time job initially?
 20 A. Pretty much.
 21 Q. And how long did it remain pretty much a
 22 full-time job?
 23 A. Well, as the task force grew, it lightened my
 24 load.
 25 Q. It what?

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1 A. As the task force grew, as we had more people
 2 to help, it lightened my load.
 3 Q. And when you say as it grew, do you mean in
 4 terms of the number of people that were employed by the
 5 task force?
 6 A. Yes, and the tasks that they took over.
 7 Q. Do you know why Mrs. Bright asked you in 1988
 8 whether you would be a cochair for the task force?
 9 A. No, I don't, other than she trusted -- I guess
 10 she trusted me. She saw me as somebody that could --
 11 was capable to take over the chairmanship, but I'm
 12 speculating. I don't really know her heart on that.
 13 Q. How did it come about that the offices of the
 14 task force were relocated from California to the Focus
 15 on the Family offices?
 16 A. Well, Focus on the Family moved to Colorado
 17 Springs in 1991. So, of course, I moved with it. And
 18 since I had accepted the chairmanship, the ministry
 19 moved here.
 20 Q. And the Focus on the Family moved to Colorado
 21 Springs from where?
 22 A. From Pomona, California.
 23 Q. Was there ever any consideration of having the
 24 offices of the task force in a separate location from
 25 Focus on the Family when you took over?

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1 A. No. We are housed here, but we pay for all
 2 the services that Focus provides for us. We pay for
 3 broadcast time, we pay for print. Whatever services,
 4 they bill us. They're just like a vendor, and so we
 5 pay for their services. So we're just housed here, but
 6 we're not part of Focus on the Family.
 7 Q. Has that vendor relationship always existed
 8 since the task force has been located in the Focus on
 9 the Family offices?
 10 A. I don't recall. That's 20 years ago.
 11 Q. In terms of the billing arrangements, is the
 12 task force billed on an annual basis or a monthly
 13 basis?
 14 A. Annual.
 15 Q. And for those sorts of services and space
 16 provided by Focus on the Family, do you know what you
 17 were billed or what the task force was billed --
 18 A. You would have to ask the executive
 19 director.
 20 Q. Is it fair to say that you don't know?
 21 A. I don't know for sure what the actual amount
 22 is.
 23 Q. The budget of the task force for 2008, roughly
 24 how much did the task force spend in 2008?
 25 A. You would have to ask John Bornschein.

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1 Q. The overall budget of the task force is not
 2 anything that you even have a rough approximation of?
 3 A. I could be wrong and I could be right. I
 4 would say it's about 1.2 million.
 5 Q. Currently?
 6 A. I don't know. I don't know for sure.
 7 Q. Certainly we're not talking about 2002? When
 8 you say 1.2 million --
 9 A. We're talking 2009.
 10 Q. Okay. Michael Calhoun is responsible for
 11 strategic partnerships; is that correct?
 12 A. Uh-huh.
 13 Q. And what does that mean? What does he do?
 14 A. The seven centers of power, if you look at it
 15 as the church, it's the media, it's the military, so he
 16 usually networks with people in that venture, in the
 17 seven centers of power. For instance, at some of our
 18 events, we might want to have a representative from
 19 Hollywood in the media, so he would be the one that
 20 would contact that person, see if they were available,
 21 or a military person.
 22 Q. Are there any strategic partnerships that are
 23 more enduring, in other words, rather than, you know,
 24 for some particular event? She has to have a yes or a
 25 no.

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1 A. I don't recall.
 2 Q. So in terms of whether or not there are any
 3 long-term strategic partnerships that the task force
 4 has, you do not know?
 5 A. I don't know.
 6 Q. Are there any strategic partnerships that
 7 you're aware of that no longer exist?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Can you give me an example?
 10 A. Well, we had a donor that owned a car in the
 11 NASCAR races, and he would paint his car with the
 12 National Day of Prayer logo.
 13 Q. He did what?
 14 A. He would paint his car with the National Day
 15 of Prayer logo to just help promote the National Day of
 16 Prayer, and so he no longer is doing that. It became
 17 too expensive for him. He needed people like Lowe's
 18 and Home Depot to sponsor his car.
 19 Q. How was the logo selected?
 20 A. I think one of the artists in the National Day
 21 of Prayer helped us put it together. We had many
 22 different renderings, and we all chose that one. The
 23 task force chose that one.
 24 Q. Many of the renderings, though, include the
 25 NDP with an American flag next to it; is that

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1 correct?
 2 A. Usually.
 3 Q. Pardon?
 4 A. Usually.
 5 Q. And why was the American flag chosen as a
 6 prominent part of the task force logo?
 7 A. Well, this is our National Day of Prayer set
 8 aside by our Congress, and so it's a day when we pray
 9 for our country and for our leaders, and that
 10 symbolizes our country.
 11 Q. Is there anything in the logo or any of the
 12 logos that the task force uses that depicts its
 13 Christian-Judeo orientation?
 14 A. In the logo?
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 A. No.
 17 MR. THERIOT: Rich, we've been going for about
 18 an hour.
 19 MR. BOLTON: We can take a break.
 20 (A recess was taken.)
 21 MR. ROSENBERG: Before the deposition, the
 22 parties agreed that any objection made by one party
 23 shall be made as to all parties in the deposition so
 24 that other parties do not have to separately join in
 25 that objection.

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1 MR. BOLTON: And I think we're all in
 2 agreement on that.
 3 MR. THERIOT: Right.
 4 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Gayle Sharman is listed as
 5 responsible for customer relations for the task force;
 6 is that correct?
 7 A. (Witness indicating in the affirmative.)
 8 Q. What does that involve?
 9 A. I think she has a new title now. Is that up
 10 to date?
 11 Q. I don't know. I'm not sure just what the date
 12 is. This was something that was produced during
 13 discovery. Is Gayle still working for the task
 14 force?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And her job hasn't changed; it's just the
 17 title may have changed?
 18 A. You would have to ask John Bornschein. John
 19 Bornschein is over all the administrative part of the
 20 ministry, and everybody reports to him, not to me. So
 21 titles may change, jobs may change within the
 22 department.
 23 Q. The description, customer relations, is that a
 24 title that previously existed, as far as you know?
 25 A. Probably so.

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1 Q. Pardon?
 2 A. Probably so.
 3 Q. In terms of the task force customers, is that
 4 what basically the constituency that you referred to,
 5 or is it something different?
 6 A. I believe she's over ordering. Somebody
 7 orders -- wants a catalog or a bookmark or a bumper
 8 sticker or whatever, I believe she's over that;
 9 resources.
 10 Q. Lisa Crump, is she still with the task
 11 force?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And at least the chain of responsibilities
 14 that I have lists her as involved with the national
 15 network. Is that still what she does?
 16 A. She's over all the coordinators, the state
 17 coordinators, the regional. We have national area
 18 leaders. They're over like six or seven states.
 19 Q. Carol Mock is the military liaison; is that
 20 correct?
 21 A. That's correct.
 22 Q. And Faye Tharp is involved with public
 23 affairs?
 24 A. That's right.
 25 Q. What does her work involve?

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1 A. Constituent building, making friends. She's
 2 in charge of donors.
 3 Q. Does she travel much for that?
 4 A. Some.
 5 Q. We were talking a little bit earlier about the
 6 task force encouraging governors to issue
 7 proclamations. That was something that really wasn't
 8 widely done before you became the chairman of the task
 9 force; is that correct?
 10 A. I don't know.
 11 Q. Do you know whether the number of
 12 proclamations that are issued by governors has
 13 increased under your chairmanship?
 14 A. Yes, it has increased.
 15 Q. And I understand that you described the letter
 16 would be written and signed by you and sent to each of
 17 the governors, correct?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. When did you start sending letters to each of
 20 the governors?
 21 A. I've been chairman for 19 years, and I can't
 22 tell you the exact time when we did that. I know that
 23 Mrs. Bright also requested governors sign a
 24 proclamation for the National Day of Prayer.
 25 Q. And if you don't get a proclamation from a

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1 governor, is there any pressure put on the governor to
 2 issue a National Day of Prayer proclamation?
 3 A. Not from the task force. It's only a
 4 request.
 5 Q. Pardon me?
 6 A. Our letter is only a request.
 7 Q. Now, a couple of years back, Eliot Spitzer,
 8 the governor of New York, was fairly late in issuing
 9 his proclamation. Do you recall that?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. And my understanding is that someone on behalf
 12 of the task force had contacted his office several
 13 times to see whether or not a proclamation would be
 14 forthcoming. Would that type of contact be unusual?
 15 A. I would say yes.
 16 Q. I mean, the task force was certainly aware
 17 that Governor Spitzer was the last governor who had not
 18 yet issued a proclamation; is that correct?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. You knew that he was still unaccounted for in
 21 terms of his proclamation, correct?
 22 A. I was told that.
 23 Q. Okay. And you were told that by people that
 24 you work with, correct?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And people, when they told you something,
 2 you -- I mean, they had a history of reporting
 3 correctly to you, correct?
 4 A. Usually the task force, as the proclamations
 5 are coming in, they let me know that they're excited
 6 that we have 5, 10, 30. You know, I get reports.
 7 Q. And then these proclamations at some point you
 8 start posting on the task force Website, correct?
 9 A. Correct.
 10 Q. Do you know when that began?
 11 A. I don't.
 12 Q. And I understand that all the state
 13 proclamations are bound and made in a real presentable
 14 package and given to the President; is that correct?
 15 A. It was given to President Bush.
 16 Q. Was that something that was unique during
 17 President Bush's presidency?
 18 A. It was unique that we were given 50
 19 proclamations, and we thought we would make a nice gift
 20 for the President on the National Day of Prayer.
 21 Q. And so prior to actually having all 50
 22 governors accounted for, you hadn't done that?
 23 A. Right. Correct.
 24 Q. Some of the letters to the governors, before
 25 you got the proclamations, encouraged them indicating

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1 that that was what you intended to do; is that
 2 correct?
 3 A. I don't recall what was in the letters.
 4 Q. Now, with regard to Governor Spitzer, my
 5 understanding is that from some quarters, a fair amount
 6 of pressure was put forth for him to sign the
 7 proclamation, correct?
 8 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection, form.
 9 A. I have no understanding of that.
 10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Pardon?
 11 A. I have no understanding of any pressure that
 12 was put on him.
 13 Q. You don't?
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. Okay. If I told you that Mr. Dobson had
 16 criticized the governor on his radio program for not
 17 having issued a proclamation, would that surprise
 18 you?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. And that he had sent out a mass e-mail to
 21 people encouraging them to essentially raise a fuss
 22 about the governor not having issued a proclamation,
 23 would that surprise you?
 24 A. I have no knowledge of that.
 25 Q. Never even heard that that might have

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1 happened?
 2 A. Not an e-mail.
 3 Q. Pardon?
 4 A. I wasn't aware of an e-mail that was sent
 5 out.
 6 Q. But the radio coverage by Mr. Dobson you're
 7 aware of, correct?
 8 A. I am.
 9 Q. And how did it come about that Mr. Dobson was
 10 even aware that Governor Spitzer had not yet submitted
 11 his proclamation?
 12 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 13 speculation. You may answer.
 14 A. I can't speculate.
 15 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Well, you know Mr. Dobson
 16 obviously.
 17 A. Pretty well.
 18 Q. Did you tell Mr. Dobson that New York was
 19 unaccounted for?
 20 A. I don't recall.
 21 Q. Were you surprised that Mr. Dobson had made
 22 this a subject of his radio program?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. Are you aware of any other governors who
 25 were subject to at least public criticism for not

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1 having issued a proclamation, other than Governor
 2 Spitzer?
 3 A. Well, of course, every state coordinator hopes
 4 that the governor will proclaim prayer in the state on
 5 the National Day of Prayer. So I'm sure the state
 6 coordinators made contact with Governor Spitzer and any
 7 other governor, because they're hoping that the
 8 governor will support our nation's day of prayer.
 9 Q. But in terms of any other specific instances,
 10 you're not aware of?
 11 A. The wrestler -- who was the governor that was
 12 the wrestler?
 13 Q. Governor Ventura.
 14 A. He did not issue a proclamation.
 15 Q. And was any effort made to get him to get on
 16 board and issue a proclamation?
 17 A. Not from the task force and not from the state
 18 coordinators, as far as I know. We instruct them not
 19 to put any pressure on anybody, governor or mayor,
 20 anybody to sign a proclamation. It's just a request.
 21 Q. When you write to the governors, do you
 22 include a suggested proclamation for them?
 23 A. No, we don't write one for them.
 24 Q. Have you ever ghostwritten any proclamation
 25 that an official could decide to use or decide not to

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1 use?
 2 A. Not for the governors.
 3 Q. Any other public officials?
 4 A. You mean draft a proclamation for them?
 5 Q. Uh-huh.
 6 A. We have -- yes, we have done that for the
 7 White House, because we know how busy the President is
 8 and so we draft it, but not one president has ever used
 9 it. I think once or twice we've seen a sentence that's
 10 been used, but they have their own writers and they
 11 write their own proclamations.
 12 Q. When did the task force begin choosing a theme
 13 for each year's National Day of Prayer?
 14 A. Since I became chairman.
 15 Q. So that was something that you began right off
 16 the bat?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. And when you began choosing an annual theme,
 19 was there also from that very beginning a selection of
 20 a biblical reference that was also used in association
 21 with the theme?
 22 A. We call it a supporting scripture, yes.
 23 Q. And how is the annual theme selected?
 24 A. I go before the Lord every year in prayer, and
 25 I ask him, what is on his heart for our nation. And

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1 then I look at the culture, what's going on in the
 2 culture. And through prayer, He usually gives me the
 3 perfect theme for that year.
 4 Q. And then the same process for choosing the
 5 supporting scripture?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And is there a particular -- I mean, all the
 8 supporting scripture comes from the Bible; is that
 9 correct?
 10 A. Correct.
 11 Q. You've never used supporting scripture from
 12 any other source, correct?
 13 A. Correct.
 14 Q. And would you consider using any other
 15 source?
 16 A. No. Because, as I said, we are the
 17 Judeo-Christian expression, so we would use the
 18 Christian Bible. We would find a scripture from the
 19 God of the Bible. Sometimes it's from the Old
 20 Testament, sometimes it's from the New Testament.
 21 Q. And would your constituency, the task force
 22 constituency, recognize that source for the supporting
 23 scripture?
 24 A. Yes, I believe they would.
 25 Q. Now, my understanding is that when you send

1 letters to the governors, you also encourage them to
 2 include your annual theme and supporting scripture
 3 within their own proclamations; is that correct?
 4 A. Not true, no.
 5 Q. And my understanding, though, is that at least
 6 in the last few years, many, if not most, of the
 7 governors are including the annual theme?
 8 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 9 A. I don't know.
 10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You don't know that?
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 Q. No? Is there any reference made to the
 13 supporting scripture and the annual theme in the letter
 14 that you send to the governors?
 15 A. Yes, all the letters that go out have our
 16 theme and the supporting scripture, but we don't ask
 17 them to use it. We don't ask the governors to use it.
 18 We just list it in the letter. If they choose to use
 19 it, it's up to them.
 20 Q. Are you hopeful that they'll use it?
 21 A. It would be nice.
 22 Q. Why?
 23 A. Well, because I feel like that that particular
 24 theme, you know, was given to me by the Lord. For
 25 instance, the 2009 theme is for Prayer for Such a Time

1 not always aware of what the governors -- I don't read
 2 every one of them. They're kept in the office and
 3 compiled there.
 4 Q. Is there any reason why, in your letter to the
 5 governors, that you would include a reference to the
 6 Judeo-Christian expression of the annual theme and
 7 supporting scripture that you've selected?
 8 A. The theme and the supporting scripture is part
 9 of our -- part of the letters that we send out. Almost
 10 all of the letters on the National Day of Prayer, we
 11 alert people to what the Judeo-Christian theme is going
 12 to be, and some use it. Some churches use it, some
 13 don't. Some prayer gatherings use it, some don't. I
 14 imagine some governors use it in their proclamations,
 15 but I'm not aware of it.
 16 Q. Do you think it's appropriate for a governor
 17 to include a Judeo-Christian expression in their annual
 18 proclamation?
 19 A. I wouldn't speculate on that.
 20 Q. Certainly from your perspective, though,
 21 you're not opposed to it? You're not opposed to it,
 22 correct?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. And that's why you include it in the letters
 25 to the governors, isn't it?

1 As This. I would say that 40,000 volunteers and
 2 coordinators are going to be using that theme, and it
 3 would be nice if the governor chose to, but there's no
 4 pressure. It's just listed in the letter. It's just
 5 listed in the letter that we send to them.
 6 Q. And the theme and the supporting scripture has
 7 been incorporated in some presidential proclamations as
 8 well; is that correct?
 9 A. I don't know. I don't recall. I don't think
 10 it has.
 11 Q. Pardon me?
 12 A. I don't think a President has ever put the
 13 theme in the proclamation.
 14 Q. But a number of governors have, correct?
 15 A. I don't recall.
 16 Q. Has anyone at the task force ever reported to
 17 you that at least some governors have incorporated the
 18 theme and the supporting scripture?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Is my mentioning it right now the first time
 21 you've ever heard that?
 22 A. The first Thursday of May is a very --
 23 Q. Pardon me?
 24 A. The first Thursday of May is a very busy time
 25 in our office, and so as the proclamations come in, I'm

1 A. It's just a statement of what the theme is and
 2 what the supporting scripture is. We don't know what
 3 the governor is going to do with it.
 4 Q. Why did you start choosing an annual theme?
 5 A. I think a theme is good. It brings unity to
 6 the nation.
 7 Q. Certainly there's nothing, though, in the
 8 legislative requirement that the President dedicate a
 9 day of prayer that requires any sort of annual theme,
 10 correct?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. There's nothing that requires any sort of
 13 reference to supporting scripture, correct?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. And so to the extent that these things are
 16 incorporated into presidential proclamations or
 17 governor proclamations, that is not something that is
 18 legally required, correct?
 19 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection, calls for a legal
 20 conclusion.
 21 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You're not aware that it's
 22 required, correct?
 23 A. No.
 24 MR. ROSENBERG: Same objection.
 25 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Are you aware of any

1 expression of any other specific religious orientation
2 that's ever been incorporated into a governor's
3 proclamation?

4 A. I'm not aware of it.

5 Q. Or presidential proclamation?

6 A. I'm not aware of it.

7 MR. THERIOT: I'm going to object to that
8 question, because it assumes facts not established.

9 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) The task force objective of
10 encouraging prayer, that general goal could certainly
11 be accomplished without any specific reference to the
12 National Day of Prayer, correct?

13 A. The task force is to publicize and promote and
14 continue the tradition of a National Day of Prayer.

15 Q. But the goal of encouraging prayer, that goal,
16 if you wanted to, could be done without being tied to
17 the National Day of Prayer, correct?

18 A. It could, but the National Day of Prayer is a
19 rallying point. It's a day when we're focusing on
20 prayer for our country.

21 Q. And you know that because it's declared as
22 such by the President each year?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Thinking back, do you know when you first
25 became aware of the National Day of Prayer?

1 Q. Do you know of prayer being used in a
2 nonreligious context?

3 A. I can't speculate on that.

4 Q. Certainly as you understood the National Day
5 of Prayer as a day set aside for prayer, though, you
6 understood it to have a relationship to religion; is
7 that correct?

8 A. Well, in the Christian faith, we don't talk
9 about religion. We talk about a relationship, a
10 relationship with God, and so I'm not sure what you're
11 asking.

12 Q. Okay. So you wouldn't associate prayer, even
13 in the Christian-Judeo orientation, as a religious
14 concept but as something that is related to
15 establishing and having a relationship with the God of
16 the Bible, correct?

17 A. I would say that is correct.

18 Q. Do you associate the Bible as having a
19 religious relationship?

20 A. The Bible is the Christian Bible. So if you
21 want to call Christianity a religion, then the Bible
22 would, of course, be our handbook.

23 Q. Whether or not we connect the relationship to
24 the God of the Bible as being a religious concept,
25 certainly you associate prayer with that relationship,

1 A. I would say 1987.

2 Q. Pardon?

3 A. 1987.

4 Q. And how did you become aware of it?

5 A. Mainly through Mrs. Vonette Bright, our
6 friendship with the Brights.

7 Q. And that initial understanding or that initial
8 awareness of the National Day of Prayer, what did you
9 understand the National Day of Prayer to be?

10 A. A day set aside for prayer in our nation, just
11 like Veterans' Day or 4th of July. It was a special
12 day, and on this occasion, for prayer.

13 Q. And certainly you understand that prayer has
14 an integral relationship to religion; is that
15 correct?

16 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
17 speculation.

18 A. I can't speculate on that.

19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) So whether or not prayer has a
20 connection to religion, that would require you to
21 engage in speculation?

22 A. Well, I can only speak for the Christian
23 prayer.

24 Q. Pardon me?

25 A. I can only speak for the Christian prayer.

1 with that relationship with the God as you know it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You talk about prayer in terms of the National
4 Day of Prayer. When the National Day of Prayer Task
5 Force makes reference to prayer, that is the definition
6 that you're using, the relationship with the God of the
7 Bible?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. What is the National Day of Prayer four-step
10 approach?

11 A. Pardon me?

12 Q. Have you ever heard of the National Day of
13 Prayer four-step approach to effective communication
14 with God?

15 A. Are you talking about the PRAY acronym?

16 Q. Am I correct that you've described it as the
17 National Day of Prayer four-step approach to effective
18 communication with God?

19 A. Are you talking about the PRAY acronym?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes. That's just a way to pray. That's just
22 one way to pray.

23 Q. And in your book, Certain Peace in Uncertain
24 Times, Embracing Prayer in an Anxious Time, you make
25 reference to that four-step approach and identify it as

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1 something associated with the National Day of Prayer,
 2 correct?
 3 A. Correct.
 4 Q. How is that association made? How do you
 5 promote that four-step approach to prayer?
 6 A. It's just one way to pray. It's just a way to
 7 remember the steps to, you know -- for instance, we
 8 took it from pray, and the P would be praise, to start
 9 out your prayer with praise. This is not necessarily
 10 on the National Day of Prayer. This is any time. This
 11 is an acronym for prayer any time. And then the R is
 12 for repent. The scriptures tell us that we are to
 13 repent before an Almighty God when we have sinned
 14 against him. And then the A is ask, praying for our --
 15 praying for whatever needs we have in our life, and
 16 then the Y is to yield, and say, Not my will but Thine
 17 be done.
 18 Q. When did you begin associating that four-step
 19 approach with the National Day of Prayer?
 20 A. I don't recall the exact year we did that.
 21 Q. My understanding is that you consider prayer
 22 to be important not just to individuals but also to
 23 entire nations; is that correct?
 24 A. Absolutely correct.
 25 Q. And what do you mean by that?

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1 A. Well, I believe that we serve an Almighty God,
 2 and that I believe in his creation, I believe that He
 3 blesses or brings judgment on the nation as to how they
 4 see Him, how they honor Him.
 5 Q. And that prayer at the national level that
 6 you're talking about, again, from your perspective,
 7 from the task force's perspective rather, you're
 8 talking about a particular type of prayer, prayer to
 9 the God of the Bible, correct?
 10 A. The Judeo-Christian expression of the National
 11 Day of Prayer is to pray to the God of the Bible, but
 12 other faiths can pray to whomever their God is. There
 13 may be other task forces out there. We're not aware of
 14 them.
 15 Q. But in terms of providing that protective
 16 shield for the nation, it is the task force's view that
 17 praying to other gods is not going to provide that same
 18 protective shield as the expression in the
 19 Christian-Judeo prayer; is that correct?
 20 A. I let God judge people's prayers. I don't
 21 judge them. I don't know how He hears their prayers.
 22 Q. Do you think that all prayers, in terms of
 23 protecting the nation, are equal?
 24 A. I can't speculate on that. I don't know how
 25 God sees that.

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1 Q. But you believe that the prayer to the God
 2 that you pray to is -- I mean, at least as the task
 3 force views it, that that is a particular God and that
 4 that is the right God to pray to, correct?
 5 A. We pray to our Almighty God.
 6 Q. And so other people may pray to different
 7 gods, correct?
 8 A. Correct.
 9 Q. But at least in the view of the task force,
 10 and its belief in the Christian-Judeo expression, that
 11 those prayers would not be as effective for the nation
 12 as the expression of prayer that you promote,
 13 correct?
 14 A. I can't say that.
 15 Q. But you don't consider all prayer to be equal,
 16 right?
 17 A. I believe -- my personal belief is that I
 18 believe there is one God, and that's the God that we
 19 pray to.
 20 Q. And while others may pray to a different God
 21 then, you at least believe that prayer to the God that
 22 you believe in is the one that is most effective,
 23 correct?
 24 MR. THERIOT: I'm going to object. I think it
 25 calls for speculation. She can certainly testify

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1 on her personal beliefs about what she believes in her
 2 prayers. But what other people's prayers are, I don't
 3 know how she can testify to that.
 4 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Well, tell me what you believe
 5 then.
 6 A. I believe what the Bible says. God says that
 7 He is the one and only God, and his son, Jesus Christ,
 8 is the way -- is our salvation to God. So that's my
 9 personal belief, and I would say that's the belief of
 10 the Christian church.
 11 Q. What would be your reaction to a governor
 12 including an annual theme and reference from some holy
 13 book or source, other than the Bible, in their
 14 proclamation?
 15 A. The governor can sign the proclamation however
 16 he wants to. We have no authority over that, and if he
 17 wants to use his own theme -- for instance, if we have
 18 a Muslim governor and he wants to use a Muslim theme
 19 and proclaim that Muslim day of prayer in his state,
 20 there's nothing we can do about that. That's totally
 21 up to the governor.
 22 Q. But at least in terms of providing that
 23 protective shield, you would be skeptical that that
 24 would be as effective as including a scriptural
 25 reference from the Bible?

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1 A. My personal belief is that the God of the
 2 Bible is the one who protects, blesses and protects a
 3 nation.
 4 Q. How does praying provide a protective
 5 shield?
 6 A. Well, I believe that the God of the Bible has
 7 the ultimate -- is ultimately in control of the whole
 8 universe, of the earth, of the continents, of the
 9 community, of the states. I believe He is involved in
 10 everything, and He is Almighty and He can bless or He
 11 can curse.
 12 Q. And having that protective shield at the
 13 national level is a good thing, correct?
 14 A. Of course.
 15 Q. What is corporate prayer?
 16 A. Corporate prayer is, you know, people
 17 gathering together, more than two, but prayer
 18 gatherings, it could be 5, 10, it could be 40,000.
 19 It's people gathering together to pray.
 20 Q. And in the task force activities organized
 21 around the National Day of Prayer, certainly corporate
 22 prayer is something that the volunteers and state
 23 coordinators are encouraged to promote, correct?
 24 A. We believe that our constitutional rights are
 25 to gather, to worship and to pray.

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1 Q. And so certainly corporate prayer, or the
 2 gathering for prayer, is an important part of the task
 3 force's objective, correct?
 4 A. No. I would say the objective is for -- to
 5 mobilize the Christian community to pray either in
 6 their homes, around their dinner tables, in their
 7 churches, or in the public square, however they want to
 8 celebrate this nation's day of prayer.
 9 Q. Certainly, though, the volunteers and the
 10 state coordinators are -- I mean, what their intent to
 11 do is organize activities around the National Day of
 12 Prayer that will involve corporate prayer, correct?
 13 A. Correct. They like to organize a prayer
 14 gathering.
 15 Q. Now, did you know President Reagan?
 16 A. Not personally. I've met him, but I can't say
 17 I know him.
 18 Q. Did you ever discuss the National Day of
 19 Prayer with President Reagan?
 20 A. Never.
 21 Q. Have you discussed the National Day of Prayer
 22 with any president?
 23 A. Never.
 24 Q. When you would participate in National Day of
 25 Prayer activities in the White House -- and you did do

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1 that, correct?
 2 A. Yes, correct.
 3 Q. And did you ever discuss the National Day of
 4 Prayer and what it meant with President Bush?
 5 A. No.
 6 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection. Which President
 7 Bush?
 8 A. Neither.
 9 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Pardon?
 10 A. Neither one of them. I never discussed it
 11 with them.
 12 Q. But in terms of the White House functions,
 13 they were with George W. Bush, correct?
 14 A. Correct. There was one with his father, and
 15 he gave a reception on the National Day of Prayer.
 16 Q. And how many National Day of Prayer functions
 17 have you attended in the White House?
 18 A. Would the Rose Garden be considered the White
 19 House?
 20 Q. Let's consider it part of the White House.
 21 A. Okay. Ten.
 22 Q. And a number of these were held in the East
 23 Room?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. These particular locations with regard to the

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1 White House and functions of the National Day of
 2 Prayer, were they activities that were organized by the
 3 task force?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. And can you describe these functions that you
 6 attended at the White House?
 7 A. Well, the President would decide whether he
 8 was going to have a prayer observance or not. So if he
 9 had a prayer observance, we were invited to come, but
 10 also he had his own personal list of who he invited.
 11 And other religions were there, not just our task
 12 force.
 13 Q. Do you know how it came about that these
 14 occasions, these functions, began to be hosted by the
 15 President?
 16 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 17 speculation. You may answer.
 18 A. Well, I don't recall, because President Ronald
 19 Reagan just had a breakfast, and we were invited.
 20 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) So you attended a national
 21 prayer breakfast?
 22 A. National Day of Prayer breakfast.
 23 Q. Was it held on the National Day of Prayer?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And when was that?

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1 A. Well, whenever Ronald Reagan was in office. I
 2 can't recall the exact year, but during his tenure.
 3 Q. And when you attended the White House national
 4 prayer day functions, you attended, obviously?
 5 A. Yes, I was invited.
 6 Q. Mr. Dobson attended?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Did you speak?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. How many times have you spoken at a White
 11 House function in regard to the National Day of
 12 Prayer?
 13 A. Eight.
 14 Q. And did your husband speak at any of these?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Did you speak as a representative of the task
 17 force?
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. Did you speak as an individual?
 20 A. Yes, as the chairman of the National Day of
 21 Prayer.
 22 Q. Okay. So you were asked to attend as the
 23 chairman of the National Day of Prayer?
 24 A. No. I was just asked to attend.
 25 Q. Pardon me?

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1 A. I was just asked to attend.
 2 Q. Okay. You must have been asked to speak too.
 3 A. I was.
 4 Q. And you spoke about the importance of prayer,
 5 correct?
 6 A. In our country, correct.
 7 Q. Now, my understanding is that there are other
 8 Washington, D.C. -- or that there are Washington, D.C.
 9 national prayer day activities that the task force is
 10 involved in organizing; is that correct?
 11 A. That's correct.
 12 Q. Can you describe those activities?
 13 A. Well, on Wednesday night before the National
 14 Day of Prayer, we have a reception.
 15 Q. Where is the reception held?
 16 A. Usually at a hotel. Sometimes it's at the
 17 J.W. Marriott or whatever. And that's mainly for our
 18 donors that contribute to the National Day of Prayer
 19 and friends that live in Washington, D.C. Some
 20 religious leaders come and some congressmen attend.
 21 And they usually -- we send out invitations, and then
 22 they let us know whether they're coming or not.
 23 Q. And that's the night before?
 24 A. Uh-huh.
 25 Q. And then there must be some activities that

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1 you're involved in organizing in the capitol on the
 2 actual designated day, correct?
 3 A. Correct.
 4 Q. Not just functions that you attend, but
 5 functions that are organized by the task force,
 6 correct?
 7 A. Correct.
 8 Q. Describe those activities.
 9 A. We have a prayer gathering at the Cannon House
 10 office building on the National Day of Prayer.
 11 Q. And how long has the task force been hosting
 12 that or organizing that activity?
 13 A. That was hosted under Mrs. Vonette Bright, so
 14 I don't know. Whenever she -- they started.
 15 Q. So it preceded your chairmanship?
 16 A. Correct.
 17 Q. And it continued under your chairmanship,
 18 correct?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. And it's continued without interruption under
 21 your chairmanship, correct?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. And it's one of the most important activities
 24 organized by the task force, correct?
 25 A. I would say it's not any more important than

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1 any other prayer gathering across the nation. We're
 2 there because that's the seat of our government, and
 3 we're there to pray for our leaders, for the President,
 4 for his cabinet, for all those that lead our country.
 5 Q. Is it important that it's held in the Cannon
 6 office building?
 7 A. I think because it's a nice room.
 8 Q. It's what?
 9 A. It's a nice room. And, again, it's in
 10 Washington, D.C., and we feel that's the seat of our
 11 government, and it's easy access for the congressmen
 12 and the senators because it's right there if they
 13 choose to drop in.
 14 Q. And the Cannon office building is a government
 15 building, correct?
 16 A. Correct.
 17 Q. And my understanding is that you invite
 18 representatives of the executive branch to attend,
 19 correct?
 20 A. Correct.
 21 Q. And you've had individuals from the executive
 22 branch attend, correct?
 23 A. We invite the three branches of government.
 24 We invite a representative from the executive branch,
 25 from the legislative branch, from the judicial branch,

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<p>1 and a representative from the military, and we see them 2 as standing in the gap for their particular office 3 across the land. 4 Q. And so the actual activities held in the 5 Cannon office building, presumably it involves just 6 more than getting these people together, correct? 7 You've got a program? 8 A. We have a prayer service. 9 Q. And are the representatives from the different 10 branches of government asked to speak at this prayer 11 service? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And have they in the past? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Representatives of the executive branch have, 16 correct? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. And the legislative branch as well, correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Have you had any speaker from the judicial 21 branch? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And they're given at least a little suggestion 24 of what you would like them to address in their 25 remarks, correct?</p>	<p>1 fine. 2 Q. So you don't ask them to, you just suggest it, 3 is that the distinction you're making? 4 A. We suggest it. 5 Q. The activities at the Cannon office building 6 then, are they televised? 7 A. I think the last year was the first time they 8 were televised. I would say not televised. I would 9 say Webcast. 10 Q. And who televised it? 11 A. God TV. 12 Q. What is it called? 13 A. It's called God TV. 14 Q. And who's behind that? 15 A. Again, you would have to ask John Bornschein 16 who's the administrative director of the National Day 17 of Prayer. I don't even know how big the affiliate 18 is. 19 Q. 2008 was televised, correct? Do you need a 20 break? 21 A. No. I saw you looking over there. I thought 22 someone came in. 23 Q. 2008 was televised, correct? 24 A. I believe so. 25 Q. And then was 2009 also?</p>
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<p>1 A. Correct. 2 Q. You asked them to speak to the importance of 3 religion in their own life, correct? 4 A. No. We ask them to give us the prayer needs 5 and requests of their particular branch. For instance, 6 the legislative branch would maybe ask a prayer for 7 their families for the long hours that they put in, 8 that God would give them wisdom on the decisions that 9 they make, and so they make some comments on their 10 particular branch. And if they want to talk about what 11 prayer has meant in their life, they're free to do 12 that. 13 Then a representative of the National Prayer 14 Committee steps up on the platform and prays for that 15 particular area. For instance, the judge would be 16 standing in the gap for the judicial branch all across 17 our land, and we would pray for all of our people that 18 are involved in the judiciary, including all of you. 19 Q. And it's your testimony today, though, that in 20 inviting representatives of the different branches of 21 government, that you don't also encourage them to speak 22 about the role that religion has played in their 23 lives? 24 A. We ask them -- we suggest that if they would 25 like to speak about prayer, you know, that would be</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And do you know whether any effort was made to 3 determine whether or not the broadcast was widely 4 viewed? 5 A. Again, you would have to ask our executive 6 director who handles the production, you know. 7 Q. Is it something that the task force pays 8 for? 9 A. If we're charged, we do. Sometimes they give, 10 you know, free service. But if they charge us, we pay 11 for it. 12 Q. Do you know whether -- 13 A. I think God TV gave us the time. 14 Q. Do you pay anything for use of the Cannon 15 office building? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Now, are you aware of any other National Day 18 of Prayer activities that are held in the Cannon office 19 building? 20 A. No. We just have the one prayer service. 21 Q. But, I mean, are you aware of any activities 22 organized and conducted in the Cannon office building 23 by other organizations? 24 A. Well, I know Dr. Corinthia Boone, who handles 25 the Washington, D.C. event, she has some kind of a</p>

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1 service for pastors, but I don't know where it's held.
 2 I don't know what room it's held in, but it's in the
 3 Cannon House office building. I think it serves
 4 pastors.
 5 Q. How does a person or an organization go about
 6 getting access to use the Cannon office building for an
 7 activity such as you host?
 8 A. We make a request to the Speaker of the House,
 9 and they have to approve it.
 10 Q. And that's at least since before you became
 11 the chairman, that process has been going on,
 12 correct?
 13 A. Correct.
 14 Q. Do you agree or disagree that the President
 15 should not promote prayer?
 16 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection as to form.
 17 A. Can you state the question again?
 18 MR. BOLTON: Can you read it back?
 19 (The requested question was read back by the
 20 reporter.)
 21 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Let me rephrase it. Do you
 22 believe that the President should promote prayer?
 23 A. I would like for him to, because he is the
 24 leader of the nation. At least on the National Day of
 25 Prayer, I would like him to encourage prayer.

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1 Q. And would that be true also, then, of
 2 Congress?
 3 A. Well, Congress already did. They signed in
 4 1988 and 1952 that we should have a National Day of
 5 Prayer.
 6 Q. Now, do you know anything about the history of
 7 that 1952 legislative enactment signed by President
 8 Eisenhower?
 9 A. It was signed by President Truman.
 10 Q. I'm sorry.
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Do you know whether it had anything to do with
 13 being a reaction to the Cold War that was going on and
 14 a response to communism?
 15 A. I was in high school at that time. I had no
 16 knowledge of that.
 17 Q. I understand. But you don't have any
 18 knowledge of the things that happened in the Bible
 19 either, right?
 20 A. Some. Well, not the history.
 21 Q. Pardon me?
 22 A. Not the creation of it, of course.
 23 Q. But the fact that you weren't there doesn't
 24 mean -- your knowledge is not limited to the things
 25 that you actually personally witnessed, correct?

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1 A. That's true.
 2 Q. But in terms of the history of the 1952
 3 enactment, you not only were not there, but you have
 4 not subsequently learned anything about the history of
 5 that enactment?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. And you've described what you know in terms of
 8 the enactment in 1988 designating a specific day for
 9 the day of prayer, correct?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Has the task force, under your guidance, been
 12 successful in what it's intended to do?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And how do you determine that?
 15 A. Well, when I took over the National Day of
 16 Prayer, we had a very small coordinator base, and it
 17 has grown --
 18 Q. Very small what?
 19 A. Coordinator base, volunteer base. And it has
 20 grown under my leadership. I don't take credit for it.
 21 I see it as the blessing of God. I don't take a
 22 salary. I volunteer my time, so do all of our
 23 coordinators. But the coordinator base has really
 24 grown, and there's been more involvement in the
 25 National Day of Prayer in our nation.

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1 Q. Do you think that the task force has been
 2 successful in mobilizing Christians to engage in
 3 prayer?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And how do you measure that?
 6 A. Just by the number of people that are involved
 7 in the prayer movement.
 8 Q. "In the prayer movement," is that what you
 9 said?
 10 A. Uh-huh.
 11 Q. And when you say "the prayer movement," what
 12 do you mean by that?
 13 A. Just people that are interested in prayer,
 14 people that -- like we have this initiative, the seven
 15 centers of power, and we get people ordering bookmarks
 16 with the seven centers of power on it and bulletin
 17 inserts. So we can just tell from the mail and the
 18 phone calls that it's grown.
 19 Q. Certainly this success in mobilizing a
 20 Christian prayer movement, certainly the task force has
 21 been successful, correct?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Do you attribute any of that success to the
 24 fact that there is a designated day of prayer?
 25 A. Yes, because it unifies people of faith. You

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1 know, we have students gather around the flagpoles on
 2 the National Day of Prayer. Some little children have
 3 prayers on that day, and, you know, it's good to have
 4 something to -- you know, a central theme or a central
 5 event that people can gather around, such as we
 6 celebrate a lot of special days in our country.
 7 Q. Now, in terms of the activities that are
 8 organized by the task force, though, and the volunteers
 9 that you engage, my understanding is that those
 10 volunteers must subscribe to the Christian-Judeo that
 11 the task force adheres to; is that correct?
 12 A. That's correct.
 13 Q. Has that always been the case?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. My understanding is that the volunteers have
 16 to sign something acknowledging that.
 17 A. I'm not aware of that. You would have to ask
 18 John Bornschein as an administrative --
 19 Q. But certainly a limitation on your volunteer
 20 base of people who do subscribe to the Christian-Judeo
 21 precepts that the task force believes in, you do
 22 understand that to be a requirement, correct?
 23 A. Correct. We have a separate 501(c)(3), and we
 24 are funded by people of this persuasion. So, of
 25 course, we would want our volunteers to be conducting

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1 their prayer gatherings, you know, in the same
 2 tradition.
 3 Q. Now, is the tradition and the beliefs and the
 4 expression that is promoted by the task force, does
 5 that have any relationship to the Lausanne Covenant?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And can you tell me what the Lausanne -- am I
 8 pronouncing it right, by the way?
 9 A. Uh-huh.
 10 Q. Can you tell me what the Lausanne is, as you
 11 understand it?
 12 A. You would have to ask Mrs. Vonette Bright that
 13 question.
 14 Q. I would have to ask her what you understand it
 15 to be?
 16 A. No. What she understood it to be.
 17 Q. My question right now, though, is: Do you
 18 have an understanding of what the Lausanne Covenant
 19 is?
 20 A. Not really.
 21 Q. It's really nothing that you could describe
 22 for me?
 23 A. Not really. I know the National Prayer
 24 Committee came out of the Lausanne committee meeting
 25 and I believe Billy Graham was there, and I don't know,

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1 many different religious leaders. But other than that,
 2 I don't know much about it.
 3 Q. And is the Lausanne Covenant something that
 4 has been adopted by some religious body? In other
 5 words, who are the people that signed off on the
 6 Lausanne Covenant?
 7 A. I don't know. I'm sure Mrs. Bright did, but I
 8 don't know of the others. I don't know who attended
 9 that conference.
 10 Q. Okay. So the Lausanne Covenant, though, is
 11 not something that was adopted by any organized
 12 religious entity itself?
 13 A. Not that I know of.
 14 Q. And is it the Lausanne Covenant that the task
 15 force subscribes to then?
 16 A. I don't know. Since we're a project of the
 17 National Prayer Committee, and if they subscribe to it,
 18 I assume that we have to be at least on board.
 19 Q. The relationship with the Lausanne Covenant to
 20 the task force, am I the first person to suggest that
 21 there is some relationship to you?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. You've never heard that relationship expressed
 24 before?
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. But certainly you had heard of the Lausanne
 2 Covenant before?
 3 A. Yes, I have. I believe it's on our Website.
 4 Q. Well, I've tried to read everything on your
 5 Website, but I may have missed it.
 6 A. I'm not sure, but it may be.
 7 Q. Have you selected an annual theme for 2010?
 8 A. Not yet.
 9 Q. And who will be involved in that selection
 10 process? Is that basically something that ultimately
 11 you're responsible for?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Now, my understanding is that in 2009,
 14 President Obama participated much less in any organized
 15 National Day of Prayer activities than his
 16 predecessors; is that correct?
 17 A. That's correct.
 18 Q. He was certainly invited to participate --
 19 well, did the task force invite him to participate in
 20 any activities?
 21 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 22 A. No. All we asked for from President Obama was
 23 for a proclamation. We requested it.
 24 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Were you disappointed that
 25 President Obama engaged in a less visible promotion of

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1 the day of prayer after he was elected?
 2 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 3 A. I was happy with the proclamation that he
 4 wrote.
 5 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Okay. But were you unhappy
 6 about anything?
 7 MR. THERIOT: You know, I object because it's
 8 vague. You can answer it, if you know.
 9 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) I'm not asking about anything,
 10 you know, including the price of produce. My question
 11 was more limited to what we were talking about. We
 12 were talking about President Obama. It may not come as
 13 a surprise to you, but you and your husband were at
 14 least quoted as expressing disappointment in the
 15 President. Are you hearing that for the first time?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. And did you, in fact, express disappointment
 18 with the President?
 19 A. I never talked to the President, but, of
 20 course, I was disappointed because former presidents
 21 have celebrated the National Day of Prayer in some way.
 22 So I was hoping President Obama would celebrate our
 23 nation's day of prayer in some tangible way.
 24 Q. He did issue the proclamation, though,
 25 correct?

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1 A. Yes. It was a good proclamation.
 2 Q. And it encouraged -- whether he was out front
 3 engaged in corporate activities, he certainly
 4 encouraged people to pray in their own way, correct?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. And certainly prayer can be done on an
 7 individual basis without corporate activities,
 8 correct?
 9 A. Of course.
 10 Q. And, in fact, the task force was successful in
 11 mobilizing around the National Day of Prayer
 12 designation even without the President engaging in
 13 activities such as his predecessors had, correct?
 14 A. Correct. The National Day of Prayer doesn't
 15 belong to any one man. It belongs to the American
 16 people.
 17 Q. And central to that, then, is the designation
 18 by the President in the proclamation of the day,
 19 correct?
 20 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 21 A. (Witness indicating in the affirmative.)
 22 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) You nodded. Was that a yes?
 23 A. I'm not sure. Can you restate it? I'm not
 24 sure what your question was.
 25 Q. But until you heard the objection --

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1 A. No, no. I wasn't clear then.
 2 BY MR. BOLTON: Can you read back the
 3 question?
 4 (The requested question was read back by the
 5 reporter.)
 6 A. Are what you saying is, do I think it's
 7 important that the President sign a proclamation?
 8 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Yes.
 9 A. I do.
 10 Q. And why is that?
 11 A. Well, he is the leader of our country, and
 12 many people look to the President as the moral leader
 13 and sometimes even the spiritual leader. And since
 14 this is a day set aside by Congress for the American
 15 people, he's the leader of the American people, we
 16 would like to see him encourage people of all faiths to
 17 pray on that day.
 18 MR. THERIOT: Rich, it's been an hour. Do you
 19 want to take a few minutes?
 20 MR. BOLTON: That's fine.
 21 (A brief break was taken.)
 22 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Now, the task force, as we
 23 discussed, has maintained a Website, correct?
 24 A. That's correct.
 25 Q. Am I correct that it's described as the

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1 official Website of the National Day of Prayer?
 2 A. I think you'll see National Day of Prayer Task
 3 Force.
 4 Q. Pardon me?
 5 A. I believe it says "National Day of Prayer Task
 6 Force."
 7 Q. And this may be a little bit tedious. What
 8 I'm going to do now is ask you to identify some
 9 documents, and I'll ask a few questions about a number
 10 of them, but more than anything, we're in the process
 11 right now of just identifying and getting a little bit
 12 of description.
 13 MR. BOLTON: Tom, the first document is from
 14 the task force Website, and it discusses their mission
 15 and vision and values that you'll get a copy of with
 16 the transcript, but that's the first document that
 17 we're marking.
 18 MR. BELLAVIA: Thank you.
 19 (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.)
 20 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 1 is from the task
 21 force Website; is that correct?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Have you seen this before?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And were you involved with the articulation of

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1 the mission statement for the task force?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. Do you know whether that mission statement
 4 came from the National Prayer Committee?
 5 A. I would imagine the National Prayer Committee,
 6 along with maybe members of the task force, put this
 7 together.
 8 Q. Were you involved at all in putting this
 9 together or reviewing it to see if it accurately stated
 10 the task force's position?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Have you ever seen it before?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And, to your knowledge, does it accurately
 15 state the mission and vision and values of the task
 16 force?
 17 A. It does.
 18 Q. Now, the task force Website also includes a
 19 variety of other pages. Have you, to your knowledge,
 20 looked at all of what's on your Website?
 21 A. I haven't, because I'm not a techie. I
 22 usually have to have somebody pull it up for me.
 23 Q. Looking at Exhibit 1, by the way, where it
 24 says -- on the left-hand side, there's some description
 25 of different pages. Do you see that, where it says at

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1 the very top, it says, "About NDP"?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So, certainly, the task force, in its Website,
 4 shortens the description of the entity to just NDP
 5 rather than task force, correct?
 6 A. Well, I think if you look at the entire page,
 7 it alludes to the task force.
 8 Q. Pardon?
 9 A. I think if you look at the entire page --
 10 let's see. Well, if you take the Website in context,
 11 many, many times it says "National Day of Prayer Task
 12 Force."
 13 Q. Okay. But certainly in the description of the
 14 different pages, it's shortened to just NDP, correct?
 15 A. Correct.
 16 Q. And then we discussed the logo. One of the
 17 logos at least, that's shown up in the upper left-hand
 18 corner of Exhibit 1, correct?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. And that's probably the most common logo that
 21 is used by the task force, correct?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. And certainly -- go ahead.
 24 A. Not in its entirety. Our logo doesn't include
 25 "Official Website."

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1 Q. That's a good point. Normally what it just
 2 has is the flag and the National Day of Prayer on
 3 different documents, correct?
 4 A. And on different documents, it says -- it has
 5 the flag and National Day of Prayer Task Force.
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 MR. THERIOT: And, incidentally, I want to
 8 object to this document to the extent I don't think
 9 it's clear from the document itself, but the task force
 10 is included in the logo up there.
 11 MR. BOLTON: Pardon me?
 12 MR. THERIOT: The task force is included on
 13 the Website in the logo up there. It's just not
 14 reflected in this document because it's just not a
 15 great copy.
 16 MR. ROSENBERG: It's very faint.
 17 A. It's underneath the flag, I think.
 18 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) I'm not seeing it, but I will
 19 look. It does say, though, that it is the "National
 20 Day of Prayer Official Website," correct?
 21 A. It is the official Website for the
 22 Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of
 23 Prayer.
 24 Q. Okay. And, certainly, National Day of Prayer
 25 is in much -- can we agree that it is in much larger

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1 type than the reference to the task force?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. In terms of the inclusion of the American flag
 4 on the logo, to you, is the inclusion of the American
 5 flag on the logo, is that significant?
 6 A. I believe it is, because it represents
 7 America.
 8 Q. And so, certainly, there is an attempt then to
 9 associate the National Day of Prayer Official Website
 10 of the task force with this being an American day that
 11 is being honored?
 12 A. It is our nation's day of prayer.
 13 Q. There are other pages on the Website, on the
 14 NDP Task Force website, that discuss such things as
 15 prayer and what makes for effective prayer, correct?
 16 Not on the exhibit that you have, but you're familiar
 17 with the Website, correct?
 18 MR. THERIOT: Objection. She's actually
 19 testified that she's not that familiar with it, is my
 20 understanding.
 21 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Okay. I may have
 22 misunderstood. You have viewed or not viewed your
 23 Website?
 24 A. Parts of it.
 25 Q. Are you aware of a page that's entitled "What

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1 Makes Prayer Work?"

2 A. I have not seen that page.

3 Q. How about a page entitled "Why We Pray"?

4 A. I have not seen that page.

5 Q. And so if I asked you about them in terms of

6 any personal familiarity with those pages, you would

7 not have any familiarity; is that correct?

8 A. What do you call the first page -- help me out

9 here -- when you open up somebody's Website?

10 MR. THERIOT: Home page.

11 A. The home page I'm familiar with, but not the

12 different links.

13 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) In terms of "What Makes Prayer

14 Work," though, it begins by saying, "It's all about a

15 relationship," and you would agree with that,

16 correct?

17 A. A relationship with the Holy God.

18 Q. On the page entitled "Why We Pray," there's a

19 statement that it is the goal -- "It's our goal," which

20 would be the task force's goal, "that you, your family

21 and friends would participate in the National Day of

22 Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and

23 that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event

24 to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first

25 Thursday of May and pray with conviction that God would

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1 continue to shed his grace on thee." Is that a

2 statement that you would agree with?

3 A. I would agree with that.

4 Q. There's a page entitled "Definition of

5 Judeo-Christian," and that is included, I assume, as a

6 reference for the orientation of the task force,

7 correct?

8 A. Are you referring still to the Website?

9 Q. Pardon?

10 A. Are you referring to the Website page?

11 Q. This is a definition from a page on your

12 Website.

13 A. I would have to read it.

14 Q. Okay.

15 (Exhibit 2 was marked for identification.)

16 A. I would agree.

17 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) That is an accurate statement

18 of the orientation of the task force?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It states that the task force uses the term,

21 "With reference to the standard of morality and family

22 values which is common to both the Old and New

23 Testaments, and which has over the centuries formed the

24 foundation for ethics and culture in Western society."

25 Do you see that?

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1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. Now, my understanding is that, in a variety of

3 contexts, the task force has expressed its position on

4 some moral and political issues; is that correct?

5 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection to form.

6 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Has the task force -- with

7 reference to that standard of morality, that would

8 include, for instance, issues such as their views on

9 homosexuality?

10 A. No. We are apolitical.

11 Q. What about -- well, let me back up. What do

12 you mean by "apolitical"?

13 A. We don't get involved in political issues.

14 We're about prayer. We're not about, you know,

15 homosexuality or abortion or any of those issues.

16 Q. So you would say that those are political

17 issues rather than issues that relate to a standard of

18 morality and family values that you associate with the

19 Old and New Testaments?

20 A. Well, they certainly affect the family and I

21 do think they are moral issues, but that has nothing to

22 do with the task force and our job to mobilize

23 prayer.

24 Q. Pardon?

25 A. That has nothing to do with the task force and

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1 our job to mobilize prayer.

2 Q. But in terms of the definition of

3 Judeo-Christian that is provided in your Website then,

4 when you say that you use it, "With reference to a

5 standard of morality and family values, which is common

6 to both the Old and New Testaments," my understanding

7 is that that is the expression then, the

8 Christian-Judeo expression, that is forwarded by the

9 task force, correct?

10 A. Your question is vague.

11 Q. Pardon?

12 A. Your question is vague.

13 MR. THERIOT: Objection, question vague. You

14 can ask him to repeat it. I should have objected,

15 you're right.

16 A. Okay. I'm not quite clear.

17 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Okay. Well, I'm not sure

18 what -- my understanding is that you provide a

19 definition of Judeo-Christian, which, as I understand,

20 is the expression that is forwarded by the task force

21 in the activities that it engages in, correct?

22 A. I would say that's correct.

23 Q. Pardon?

24 A. I would say that's correct.

25 Q. Okay. And the term "expression of

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1 Judeo-Christian precepts" was actually a phrase that I
2 believe you first used too; is that correct?
3 A. Correct.
4 Q. Okay. So when you say "expression of
5 Judeo-Christian values," I guess I'm not sure what you
6 mean because, on the one hand, you say that prayer has
7 nothing to do with any of these things, and yet, on the
8 other hand, you tell me that it is utilizing
9 Judeo-Christian expression.
10 MR. THERIOT: Objection. That
11 mischaracterizes her testimony.
12 A. Well, if you read here, it says, "The meaning
13 of the term like 'Judeo-Christian' depends much on the
14 intention or the interpretation of the speaker or
15 writer who uses it. We routinely use it." And then it
16 goes on to say, you know, reference to that standard of
17 morality. So Judeo-Christian literally means Old
18 Testament and New Testament, the God of the Bible, and
19 so that is our expression.
20 Q. And the expression being the standard of
21 morality and family values that is expressed in the Old
22 and New Testaments?
23 A. Correct.
24 Q. And that is the expression that is utilized by
25 the task force in its NDP-organized activities,

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1 correct?
2 A. You would say the Bible is our handbook.
3 Q. That's the extent of the expression, of
4 Judeo-Christian expression?
5 A. Well, I imagine the Jewish religion has
6 another expression, and Judeo-Christian is Protestant,
7 Catholic and Jewish.
8 Q. Do you believe that there is a need to pray,
9 that everyone should pray?
10 A. Well, the last Barna research shows that
11 88 percent of Americans pray, and 82 believe that
12 prayer is answered.
13 Q. So you would say that whether or not there's a
14 need to pray is a function of the survey, or are you
15 saying -- I mean, what I want to get at isn't whether
16 or not most people pray or not. Is it your position
17 that people should pray, that they need to pray?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Pardon?
20 A. Yes.
21 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection, form. It's a
22 compound question.
23 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) And one of the reasons that
24 you believe there is a need to pray is because the God
25 that you believe in commands that his followers pray,

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1 correct?
2 A. I wouldn't say commands it. You know, the Old
3 Testament scripture says that, I would but men
4 everywhere would lift up all their hands in prayer." I
5 think prayer gives strength to the inner man, I believe
6 it brings God's blessing not only on individuals but on
7 nations, and I think prayer is very important.
8 Q. Does it change outcomes?
9 A. I think it does.
10 Q. So do you believe that there are outcomes in
11 our history that have been affected by your view that
12 we are -- well, do you hold a view that we are
13 essentially a Christian nation?
14 MR. THERIOT: Objection, asked and answered.
15 MR. ROSENBERG: And objection to form.
16 MR. THERIOT: So it's the last part of the
17 question that you wanted her to answer, right, the "Do
18 you agree that we're a Christian nation"?
19 MR. BOLTON: Right.
20 A. I agree that we were founded on Christian
21 principles.
22 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Do you believe that those
23 Christian values have influenced the course of the
24 nation's history?
25 A. I do.

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1 Q. In a positive or a negative way?
2 A. Positive.
3 Q. And is it your view that if the nation strays
4 from Christian values, that less favorable outcomes
5 will occur?
6 A. I agree.
7 (Exhibit 3 was marked for identification.)
8 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Mrs. Dobson, we've marked
9 document entitled Exhibit 3. Are you familiar with
10 that document?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And can you describe it or identify it?
13 A. It's a letter to the governor.
14 Q. Now, the letter that we have is dated -- it
15 shows the date of January 22 of 2009, correct?
16 A. Correct.
17 Q. And it says, "Dear Governor," and then it
18 says, "Last name." This is a form letter that was sent
19 to all of the governors?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And it was sent to all of the governors in
22 anticipation of the 2009 National Day of Prayer; is
23 that correct?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. And in the first paragraph, at the end of the

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1 first paragraph -- and by the way, this is an aside,
 2 this letter would have been signed and went out over
 3 your signature, correct?
 4 A. Correct.
 5 Q. And this would have been sent to all of the
 6 governors?
 7 A. Correct, yes.
 8 Q. The last sentence of the first paragraph makes
 9 reference to "proclaiming reliance on an Almighty God
 10 and calling Americans to come before Him on behalf of
 11 our nation." Is that, at least from the perspective of
 12 the task force, one of the things that you think is
 13 desirable about the National Day of Prayer as
 14 designated by the President that you say, it behooves
 15 us to honor the precedent established by presidents and
 16 leaders, proclaiming reliance on an Almighty God and
 17 calling Americans to come before Him on behalf of our
 18 nation. Is that what you understand the National Day
 19 of Prayer is about?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And then in the second paragraph toward the
 22 end, you indicate what the NDP task force theme is and
 23 the supporting scripture, correct?
 24 A. Correct.
 25 Q. And then in the next paragraph, you ask the

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1 governors to lend their support through a public
 2 proclamation declaring May 7th, 2009 as the National
 3 Day of Prayer, correct?
 4 A. Correct.
 5 Q. And so certainly the proclamations issued by
 6 the governors, then, as you understand it, are a form
 7 of lending support to the National Day of Prayer and
 8 what it has come to stand for?
 9 A. Lending support in our nation's day of prayer,
 10 yes.
 11 (Exhibit 4 was marked for identification.)
 12 MR. THERIOT: There's not a question pending
 13 is there?
 14 MR. BOLTON: No.
 15 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Have you looked at the
 16 document?
 17 A. I have.
 18 Q. Exhibit 4 is a document that you're familiar
 19 with?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. It's a form letter that you sent out in
 22 January of 2009 to your various state coordinators; is
 23 that correct?
 24 A. I don't know who it went to. I'm sure it went
 25 to the state coordinators, but it also could be --

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1 let's see. Let me just finish reading this.
 2 Q. In the third paragraph, it says, "In your role
 3 as a state coordinator."
 4 A. Yes, then it went to the state coordinators.
 5 Q. This is a letter that you would have -- did
 6 you write it?
 7 A. This was written with Master Writers.
 8 Q. And the letter reflects your views, though,
 9 correct?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. In the first paragraph, you indicate that,
 12 "The overwhelming response last year," which would have
 13 been 2008, "was deeply encouraging," and that you
 14 anticipate even greater involvement in 2009; is that
 15 correct?
 16 A. That's correct.
 17 Q. When you say the response last year and the
 18 involvement was great, what do you mean by that?
 19 A. Number of prayer gatherings.
 20 Q. Okay. In the third paragraph of Exhibit 4,
 21 you state, "As in the past, it is critical that we
 22 garner the support of our nation's leaders for our
 23 efforts." Do you see that?
 24 A. I do.
 25 Q. And do you agree with that statement?

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1 A. I do.
 2 Q. When you say "it is critical," what do you
 3 mean by that?
 4 A. Well, I believe that people look to their
 5 leaders in giving them direction. So I think it's
 6 critical that the leaders do support this nation's day
 7 of prayer because they're role models to their
 8 people.
 9 Q. And so in terms of the overwhelming response
 10 in terms of the number of prayer events that the task
 11 force has been organizing, you would agree, then, that
 12 the proclamations issued by the various public
 13 officials is important to getting the response that
 14 you've been getting?
 15 A. That's not what it was -- it was not meant by
 16 "response" that the governors were signing
 17 proclamations. It just meant that there was more
 18 involvement at the grass-roots level, more response,
 19 more prayer gatherings.
 20 Q. Okay. But in terms of facilitating that
 21 involvement, is there any relationship, then, to the
 22 support of the nation's leaders for your efforts? I
 23 mean, do you get better participation in these events
 24 by getting support from national leaders?
 25 A. No. I think we would have the same support

1 without them.
 2 Q. So your view is, if the governors, for
 3 instance, issued no proclamations, it would have no
 4 effect on the organizing activities of the -- or the
 5 mobilizing activities of the task force?
 6 A. We would still have prayer gatherings, but I
 7 think the people of their state would be very
 8 disappointed if they didn't acknowledge the National
 9 Day of Prayer in some way.
 10 Q. And why do you say that?
 11 A. Just from the feedback from our state
 12 coordinators, that if a governor doesn't sign a
 13 proclamation, that people are disappointed. They hear
 14 from their constituents.
 15 Q. And in terms of garnering the support of
 16 leaders for your efforts, I mean, what is it that -- I
 17 mean, is the issuing of a proclamation an example of
 18 garnering such support?
 19 A. Well, the first Thursday of May is our
 20 National Day of Prayer, and, you know, we hope that the
 21 leaders of our country will call the nation to prayer.
 22 But, again, we can request it, but that's all we can
 23 do.
 24 Q. And, in fact, when you say that, "It is
 25 critical to garner the support" in the next sentence of

1 Q. I see. So when you say you invite the
 2 governors to actively participate, most appropriately
 3 on the steps of the capitol building, it is so that
 4 they can be there when they're being prayed for?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. And then the next sentence in that paragraph
 7 where you say, "In order to maintain your
 8 credibility -- and that of the NDP task force" --
 9 A. Where is that? Oh, right here. I see it.
 10 Q. You say, "It is imperative that such an event
 11 involve a well-organized, substantial assembly." Do
 12 you see that?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And that's because you want the governor to
 15 know that the prayer for him is well-organized?
 16 (A brief break was taken to reconnect
 17 telephone communication with Mr. Bellavia.)
 18 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) What you were telling me
 19 Mrs. Dobson, is that the reason you are seeking the
 20 governors' active participation in NDP observances is
 21 so that you can pray for the individual governor or
 22 government official?
 23 A. We always gather around and pray for the
 24 governor, if he attends an event. He's always prayed
 25 for, and, you know, the state legislature is prayed

1 Exhibit 4, you state that the role of the
 2 coordinator -- or part of the role -- is to help in
 3 obtaining a written proclamation from the governor of
 4 the particular state coordinator's state, correct?
 5 A. Uh-huh.
 6 Q. In fact, you suggest encouraging a personal
 7 visit to the governor's office, correct?
 8 A. Yes. If they do not write a proclamation, we
 9 ask them to set up an appointment at the governor's
 10 office and, you know, request it as a follow-up.
 11 Q. And then in Paragraph 4 of Exhibit 4, you urge
 12 the state coordinators to invite each governor of their
 13 particular state to actively participate in an NDP
 14 observance, most appropriately on the steps of the
 15 capitol building. Again, the reason for asking for
 16 that involvement, and particularly on the steps of the
 17 capitol building, is in order to give visibility to the
 18 occasion?
 19 A. Well, part of our mission statement is that we
 20 are trying to mobilize people to pray for their leaders
 21 and for America. So when a mayor or a governor decides
 22 to participate, we like that because we can pray for
 23 them and we can pray for their families and for
 24 whatever their needs are. The only reason we would
 25 like them to participate is so we can pray for them.

1 for, any leaders in that particular venue are prayed
 2 for. They're prayed for when the governor doesn't show
 3 up, but it's always nice if he does decide to
 4 participate.
 5 Q. And you state that in order to maintain the
 6 coordinators' credibility and that of the NDP task
 7 force, that it's imperative that such an event, one
 8 involving the governor, and preferably on the steps of
 9 the capitol building, be well-organized and have a
 10 substantial assembly?
 11 A. Well, we don't want to invite the governor out
 12 to two people on the capitol steps. We want to have a
 13 good showing.
 14 Q. But the fact of the matter is, you do want
 15 these public officials to show up and participate in
 16 these observances, correct?
 17 A. We would like to pray for them.
 18 Q. Now, I mean, my understanding is that you also
 19 would like these government officials to speak at the
 20 occasion also, right?
 21 A. That's up to them.
 22 Q. Well, I understand it's up to them. My
 23 question was: Would you like them to participate by
 24 speaking at these observances?
 25 A. We would like them to support prayer.

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1 Q. And, certainly, that goes beyond just
 2 attending these functions so that they can be prayed
 3 for, right? Attendance at these occasions isn't just
 4 so that they can be an object of prayer, right?
 5 A. We would like for them to speak about the
 6 nation's day of prayer, and then we would like to pray
 7 for them also, but what the governor does at these
 8 events is totally up to them. We can't dictate it. We
 9 can request it only.
 10 (Exhibit 5 was marked for identification.)
 11 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 5, Mrs. Dobson, is the
 12 letter that you sent to President Obama this year,
 13 correct?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. And you requested his support for the National
 16 Day of Prayer, correct?
 17 A. Correct.
 18 Q. And in the third paragraph of your letter, you
 19 state, "An integral part of this yearly national
 20 observance is the official presidential proclamation
 21 issued by the White House," correct?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. And in terms of that, in terms of the
 24 observances that you're organizing, that presidential
 25 proclamation, having it in hand, is very important,

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1 correct?
 2 A. It is, but presidents throughout our history
 3 have called for a National Day of Prayer.
 4 Q. And you go on to state that, "In recent years,
 5 the NDP Task Force has worked with the Clinton and Bush
 6 administrations to craft the wording for the
 7 presidential proclamation." And you talked about that
 8 earlier, correct?
 9 A. Correct.
 10 Q. And, in fact, you apparently sent a proposed
 11 draft of a presidential proclamation to President
 12 Obama, correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. I don't believe I actually received a copy of
 15 the draft proclamation that you sent to the President.
 16 A. I can get it for you.
 17 Q. Pardon?
 18 A. I can get it for you.
 19 Q. Let me ask, not having seen it, would I be on
 20 pretty solid ground guessing that it includes some
 21 reference to this year's theme and the supporting
 22 scripture?
 23 A. As I said earlier, our letters that go out
 24 around the National Day of Prayer always state the
 25 theme and the supporting scripture.

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1 Q. The letters like this one that you sent to
 2 President Obama?
 3 A. It always includes the theme and the
 4 supporting scripture.
 5 Q. But you also indicated that you're not
 6 really -- that you make no effort to persuade or push
 7 government officials to include the annual theme and
 8 the supporting scripture in their own proclamation,
 9 correct?
 10 A. Correct.
 11 Q. What I'm getting at is, the draft of the
 12 proclamation that you sent to President Obama, that is
 13 the draft that, if you had your druthers, he would use,
 14 right?
 15 A. It's to really help the writers. If they
 16 don't have to craft a proclamation for the President,
 17 this is just one they can look at, and it makes it
 18 easier for them.
 19 Q. Sure. And not having seen it, what I was
 20 speculating, though, is this form that you sent to the
 21 President, did it include this year's theme and
 22 supporting scripture?
 23 A. I don't know. I have to look at that.
 24 Q. And you said that that's something that you
 25 could lay your hands on fairly readily?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 MR. ROSENBERG: Rich, I actually think I have
 3 a copy, if that's helpful.
 4 MR. BOLTON: Oh, good.
 5 (Exhibit 6 was marked for identification.)
 6 MR. ROSENBERG: Just to be clear, this was a
 7 document that was produced by Mrs. Dobson. I don't
 8 want to make any representations as to the document.
 9 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) So Exhibit 6, then, is the
 10 letter and the proposed proclamation; is that
 11 correct?
 12 A. Yes. The top sheet is requesting a
 13 proclamation, and the second one is his actual
 14 proclamation.
 15 Q. And I'm just looking at it. It doesn't look
 16 like you included the annual theme in this particular
 17 proclamation; is that correct?
 18 MR. THERIOT: He's asking about -- I think we
 19 need to clear something up. My understanding is,
 20 you're testifying that this is not your proposed
 21 proclamation.
 22 THE WITNESS: No, no. They didn't use
 23 anything that we sent.
 24 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Say that again.
 25 A. President Obama's team did not use any part of

1 the draft that we sent them. This is his actual
 2 proclamation.
 3 Q. Oh, okay. Okay. I see.
 4 MR. ROSENBERG: Maybe we should go off the
 5 record for a second.
 6 (An off-the-record discussion was held.)
 7 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Is it fair to say,
 8 Mrs. Dobson, that whether or not the second page to
 9 Exhibit 6 was the actual draft proclamation that you
 10 sent to President Obama, you just don't know?
 11 A. I don't know.
 12 Q. Okay. You've got Exhibit 6 right in front of
 13 you, though?
 14 A. I do.
 15 Q. In the third paragraph of the letter that you
 16 wrote to President Obama, and that would be the first
 17 page of Exhibit 6 -- or Exhibit 5 that we were just
 18 looking at, this, though, was a letter that you
 19 actually did send to the President, correct?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. And what you're proposing to do there was what
 22 you had done in recent years with the Clinton and Bush
 23 administrations in terms of helping to craft the
 24 wording of the presidential proclamation?
 25 A. We sent them a draft, yes.

1 correct?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. And presumably at the time that you wrote this
 4 letter, you intended to be accurate in the information
 5 that you were conveying to the President, correct?
 6 A. That's correct. But, again, I worked with
 7 Master Writers on crafting these letters, and they
 8 usually do the background check on it. So if it says
 9 Clinton, then we probably did send a draft.
 10 Q. So the facts stated in this letter, there was
 11 some effort to actually verify the accuracy of the
 12 statements?
 13 A. They usually did a background check.
 14 Q. In a letter that you wrote to Representative
 15 Michael Bachmann --
 16 A. Michele Bachmann.
 17 Q. I'm sorry. Michele Bachmann, that's somebody
 18 that you know, correct?
 19 A. I do know her.
 20 Q. And she's worked with you -- she's attended
 21 National Day of Prayer activities in D.C. in the
 22 past?
 23 A. The Cannon House office building is open to
 24 our representatives to drop in and have prayer if they
 25 choose, and Michele Bachmann has dropped in from time

1 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection as to which Bush
 2 administration. Also, compound for Clinton and Bush.
 3 MR. BOLTON: Say that again.
 4 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection because you referred
 5 to the Bush administration. Which Bush administration?
 6 And compound as to Bush and Clinton. I'm not sure we
 7 ever established what role, if any, the National Day of
 8 Prayer Task Force played regarding the Clinton
 9 administration.
 10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Well, in the letter that we're
 11 looking at there that you wrote to President Obama, you
 12 wrote that, "In recent years, the NDP Task Force has
 13 worked with the Clinton and Bush administrations to
 14 draft the wording for the presidential proclamation."
 15 You wrote that, correct, in the third paragraph?
 16 A. Let me see. Correct.
 17 Q. And that was a correct statement?
 18 A. If by sending a draft means craft, yes.
 19 Q. And that would have been true for -- I mean,
 20 I'm not saying that they adopted it or anything, but
 21 you sent drafts to both the Clinton administration and
 22 the Bush administration, correct?
 23 A. We have to the Bush administrations. I don't
 24 remember if we did to Clinton or not.
 25 Q. But you wrote to President Obama that you had,

1 to time in the prayer service.
 2 (Exhibit 7 was marked for identification.)
 3 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 7 is the letter that
 4 you wrote to Representative Bachmann?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And, again, you thank her for agreeing to
 7 participate in the NDP observance in 2009, correct?
 8 A. As stated before, we asked for a
 9 representative from the judicial, the legislature, the
 10 executive branch, and the military, and we asked her to
 11 represent the legislature.
 12 Q. And in your letter to her, you include a
 13 reference to the 2009 theme and supporting scripture,
 14 correct?
 15 A. In all of our letters that go out for the
 16 National Day of Prayer, we put the theme and the
 17 supporting scripture on it.
 18 Q. And then you state, "There is certainly no
 19 better time than now to point Americans to the eternal
 20 source of encouragement and help," and that would be
 21 the God of your Bible, correct?
 22 A. The God of the Bible, yes.
 23 Q. And is it your understanding that this year's
 24 theme and supporting scripture, that that is how you
 25 understand or how you intended that theme and

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1 supporting scripture to be interpreted, as an effort to
 2 point Americans to the eternal source of encouragement
 3 and help?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Pardon?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. On Page 2 of the letter to Representative
 8 Bachmann, you give a little bit of guidance in terms of
 9 preparing the message that she would be asked -- as a
 10 representative of the House of Representatives, she
 11 would be a speaker at the Cannon office building?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Now, earlier you indicated to me that you
 14 didn't ask speakers to describe the role of prayer in
 15 their lives, but at least in this particular letter,
 16 you did ask that she briefly describe how prayer has
 17 played a valuable role in her personal and professional
 18 life, correct?
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. And that's language that you include in a lot
 21 of these letters to people that are being invited to
 22 participate, correct?
 23 A. It depends. I know Michele Bachmann
 24 personally, I know that she has a deep faith in God, I
 25 know that she prays, and so she was asked to share

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1 that, if she chose to.
 2 Q. Have you ever had a speaker at the Cannon
 3 office building function representing any of the
 4 branches of government that you knew did not have any
 5 particular religious bent?
 6 A. Most of the people that we invite, we know
 7 that they are people of faith.
 8 Q. And, in fact, that's, quite frankly, one of
 9 the characteristics that you seek in speakers at the
 10 Cannon office building activities, correct?
 11 A. Correct.
 12 (Exhibit 8 was marked for identification.)
 13 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 8, I'm guessing you
 14 may not have ever seen before, or have you?
 15 A. Let me see. Let me just take a moment. I
 16 have seen this.
 17 Q. You have, okay. And what is it?
 18 A. Anne Ryun is former Congressman Jim Ryun's
 19 wife, and she was the hostess that helped seat people
 20 at the Cannon House office building along with other
 21 congressional wives.
 22 Q. She doesn't have any official relationship
 23 with the task force, correct?
 24 A. No. Volunteer.
 25 Q. And she's kind of on this postCannon activity

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1 recount, correct?
 2 A. Correct.
 3 Q. And she says that, by her count, twice as many
 4 congressmen attended this year's event than for the
 5 last 12 years that she's been involved.
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And this was the 2009 prayer day activity,
 8 correct?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And the next couple of pages in, there's some
 11 list. Do you understand that this is the list of the
 12 congressmen that attended the Cannon office building?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. And she lists the names of the individuals
 15 that attended and gives their -- it look like she's
 16 giving, for most of them at least, their Washington,
 17 D.C. official office address, correct?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And then she indicates in a parentheses by
 20 each name, it looks like an R followed by a state
 21 abbreviation. The R, I assume, reflects the party
 22 affiliation of the attendees; is that correct?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. It looks like participation in the Cannon
 25 office building -- or attendance at the Cannon office

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1 building function is primarily a Republican-dominated
 2 event. Is that typical?
 3 A. I would say we have more Republican
 4 congressmen attending than Democrat. Maybe that says
 5 something about their prayer life.
 6 Q. About what?
 7 A. Maybe that says something about their prayer
 8 life.
 9 Q. I'm missing the last part of it. I'm missing
 10 the punch line.
 11 A. I said, jokingly, maybe that says something
 12 about their prayer life.
 13 Q. Oh, yeah, yeah. Well, you should ask them,
 14 send them that in next year's letter.
 15 A. I would like to say that Democrats -- all
 16 Democrats and Republicans are invited. We send out
 17 letters of invitation to all of them.
 18 (Exhibit 9 was marked for identification.)
 19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 9 is a letter by you
 20 written in August of 2008 to Father Daniel Coughlin; is
 21 that correct?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. And he's the chaplain for the House of
 24 Representatives?
 25 A. Yes, he is.

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1 Q. And he, apparently, participated in the 2008
2 activities at the Cannon office building?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Had he previously participated, or was this
5 the first year that he actively participated?
6 A. He's participated before.
7 Q. In the second paragraph of your letter to
8 Father Coughlin, you comment that, basically, work
9 never stops, you're working on the '09 observance
10 already, and you tell him what the prayer theme will be
11 and the supporting scripture. And then you indicate,
12 in the last sentence of the paragraph, that the theme
13 for '09 reflects your "conviction that hope for the
14 future is found only through God's mercy and provision
15 as his people humble themselves before His throne." Do
16 you see that?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. You were sincerely indicating to him how you
19 understand the theme for '09, you know, how at least
20 you interpret it and why you chose that theme?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Condoleezza Rice, did she participate in the
23 2008 activities?
24 A. She was invited but couldn't participate. She
25 was out of the country.

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1 Q. In the letter to her relating to the '08
2 observance, you stated that the Cannon office building
3 event is symbolic of thousands of others taking place
4 throughout the country. Is that one of the reasons for
5 holding it in the Cannon office building in terms of
6 the symbolism?
7 A. No. As I said, the event at the Cannon office
8 building is not any more important than the other
9 events across the nation. The reason we hold it there
10 is because it is the seat of our government, and we're
11 there to pray for our government.
12 Q. And so for that reason, it's certainly
13 preferable, from your perspective, to have it in the
14 Cannon office building than, for instance, in a hotel
15 conference room or something like you -- you said the
16 night before, you have an event which is more of a
17 social event, as I understand it, correct?
18 A. Right.
19 Q. But in terms of the actual observance, the
20 preference would be to have it in a government building
21 reflecting the seat of our government rather than in
22 some other sort of conference facility?
23 A. Well, when I took over as chairman, the
24 precedent had already been set by Vonette Bright to
25 hold the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. at

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1 either the Dirksen building --
2 Q. Who asked you to do that?
3 A. I said the precedent for being in the
4 government building in Washington, D.C. was set by
5 Vonette Bright when she was chairman. And so when I
6 took over, we just continued that tradition.
7 Q. But you agree with that tradition?
8 A. I do.
9 (Exhibit 10 was marked for identification.)
10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 11, is that the
11 exhibit you're looking at right now?
12 A. Yes.
13 MR. ROSENBERG: Was 10 the Condoleezza Rice
14 letter? The last one I had was 9.
15 MR. THERIOT: You have actually never
16 proffered Condoleezza Rice.
17 MR. BOLTON: Did I mark it? Which one are you
18 missing?
19 MR. ROSENBERG: The last one I have is
20 Coughlin.
21 MR. BOLTON: 10 was -- yeah, I forgot. Just
22 for our record, why don't you go ahead and just
23 identify 10.
24 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) We've talked about it, but
25 Exhibit 10 is the letter to Father Coughlin, correct?

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1 MR. ROSENBERG: 9 is Coughlin.
2 MR. THERIOT: Coughlin is 9, and this says
3 Father Coughlin too.
4 MR. BOLTON: Then I just erred. So,
5 sequentially then, right now we're missing 10, correct?
6 MR. THERIOT: Correct.
7 MR. BOLTON: And the exhibit that you have
8 right now marked as Exhibit 11, that's the letter to
9 Mark McIntyre?
10 MR. THERIOT: Right.
11 MR. BOLTON: Mike McIntyre.
12 MR. THERIOT: So you're going to remark this
13 one?
14 MR. BOLTON: Why don't we. So 10 is going to
15 be the McIntyre letter.
16 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 10, then, is the
17 letter that you wrote to Representative Mike McIntyre,
18 correct?
19 A. Correct.
20 Q. And this was before the 2008 observance of the
21 National Day of Prayer, correct?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And Representative McIntyre represented the
24 House of Representatives then?
25 A. The legislature, yes.

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1 Q. Had he participated in the past,
 2 Representative McIntyre?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And how had he been selected for participation
 5 in the past?
 6 A. We try to make it fair. We choose a Democrat
 7 to represent the legislature one year and a Republican
 8 the next year. So he was our Democratic
 9 representative.
 10 Q. And then in the second paragraph, you asked
 11 him also to include a brief description of the
 12 significant role prayer has played in his personal and
 13 professional life, correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. That actually seems to be fairly typical in
 16 the letters that you write to these individuals.
 17 A. Well, it is a prayer service.
 18 Q. Pardon?
 19 A. It is a prayer service. And so when they come
 20 over, we like for them to reference prayer in their
 21 life. They don't have to, but it is a prayer service.
 22 It's about prayer.
 23 Q. And the only reason I was making a point of it
 24 was because when we talked about that without reference
 25 to the letters, you had not recalled that you actually

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1 asked people to reflect upon or comment upon the role
 2 that religion played in their personal lives. That was
 3 the only reason why I drew attention to this.
 4 A. Well, I don't think every letter says that,
 5 but some do, and the ones that you've brought have.
 6 Q. Did you know with regard to Condoleezza Rice
 7 whether or not religion had played a -- or prayer had
 8 played a significant role in her personal and
 9 professional life?
 10 A. My understanding of her history is that she
 11 came from a very religious family.
 12 Q. And the reason I ask is because the same
 13 language that we've been talking about is included in
 14 the letter that you wrote to her. When you say it's
 15 included in some letters, I must say, I haven't seen
 16 letters that didn't include that language in terms of
 17 the presenters that you anticipated -- or the speakers
 18 at the observances. That would make sense because, as
 19 you said, this is a prayer service.
 20 A. It is.
 21 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection. I don't know that
 22 there was a question there.
 23 MR. BOLTON: Now, if I have these
 24 sequentially, is 11 next?
 25 MR. THERIOT: Yes, 11 should be next.

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1 (Exhibit 11 was marked for identification.)
 2 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Now, Exhibit 11, then, is the
 3 letter that you wrote to Chaplain Barry Black, the
 4 Senate chaplain, in March of 2008, correct?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. And that year the Senate chaplain participated
 7 in your observance; is that correct?
 8 A. Correct.
 9 Q. Had he participated previously in any of your
 10 observances?
 11 A. As a courtesy to both chaplain of the House
 12 and the chaplain of the Senate, we alternate. One year
 13 the chaplain of the House, one year the chaplain of the
 14 Senate. So this was his year.
 15 Q. In the letter that you write to him in Exhibit
 16 11, you're inviting him to participate -- actually it
 17 looks like he's already agreed to participate, and you
 18 acknowledge that you're delighted that he will be
 19 joining you again "to lead a time of intercession
 20 during our Capitol Hill NDP observance on May 1, 2008."
 21 What do you mean by that, "lead a time of
 22 intercession"?
 23 A. Well, intercession is just praying.
 24 Q. Pardon?
 25 A. Intercession is just praying.

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1 Q. Okay.
 2 A. When you're interceding, you're praying.
 3 Q. Okay. And then in the last paragraph of the
 4 letter, you thank Chaplain Black for "demonstrating an
 5 ongoing deep commitment to lifting our land and its
 6 people before the Almighty and encouraging others to do
 7 so." What did you mean by that?
 8 A. He is the chaplain of the Senate. He is their
 9 pastor. And he does have a deep commitment to praying
 10 for those senators and their families and praying for
 11 the land. So this is just kind of restating what I
 12 know his heart is.
 13 Q. And his participation in the NDP Task Force
 14 observance in the Cannon office building, would that be
 15 a continuation of that, that participating in a prayer
 16 service, would you construe that to be encouragement
 17 for others?
 18 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 19 A. Well, they are the religious leaders for the
 20 Senate and the House. So I would say that would be an
 21 encouragement for them to participate.
 22 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Including his participation in
 23 the Cannon office building?
 24 A. That's what I'm talking about.
 25 MR. THERIOT: Whenever you're ready, it's

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1 12:30.
 2 MR. BOLTON: Is now a good time to take a
 3 break then?
 4 MR. THERIOT: Sure.
 5 MR. BOLTON: And then I'll organize. We won't
 6 be a whole lot longer.
 7 MR. THERIOT: Okay. Great.
 8 (A lunch break was taken from 12:27 p.m. until
 9 1:12 p.m.)
 10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Mrs. Dobson, my understanding
 11 is that, at least in the last few years, most of the
 12 governors are incorporating the task force theme and
 13 supporting scripture in their own proclamations. Do
 14 you have any explanation for why that is?
 15 MR. THERIOT: Objection, assumes facts not
 16 established.
 17 A. I don't know why they would include it. I
 18 don't know.
 19 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Who is the intended audience
 20 of these various proclamations?
 21 A. To the people of the state.
 22 Q. Or in the case of the President?
 23 A. The people of the nation.
 24 Q. The annual theme and supporting scripture that
 25 you utilized this year, is there any effort made by the

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1 task force to conceal its Judeo-Christian
 2 orientation?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. In other words, at least to you, the annual
 5 theme and supporting scripture would be readily
 6 recognized, at least by your constituency, as coming
 7 from that Judeo-Christian background?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 (Exhibit 12 was marked for identification.)
 10 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Mrs. Dobson, we marked and
 11 presented to you Exhibit 12, and that's the letter that
 12 you wrote to President Bush in anticipation of the 2008
 13 National Day of Prayer; is that correct?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And, again, in the third paragraph, it
 16 indicates that you provided the President with a draft
 17 of a proclamation, correct?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And then it goes on to say, in the same
 20 paragraph, the third paragraph of Exhibit 12, that you
 21 state that your 40,000 volunteer coordinators will be
 22 reading the proclamation at their events, and that the
 23 President's declaration underscoring the need for
 24 corporate and personal intercession will lend
 25 tremendous prestige and credibility to these

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1 gatherings. And then you go on to say, "In addition,
 2 we plan to release it to the media the week preceding
 3 May 1st."
 4 First of all, you make reference to 40,000
 5 volunteer coordinators. To the best of your knowledge,
 6 that was an accurate number at least at the time of
 7 this letter?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And you indicate that those coordinators will
 10 be reading the President's proclamation underscoring
 11 the need for corporate and personal intercession. And
 12 my understanding from when we talked this morning, that
 13 means underscoring the need for group and personal
 14 prayer basically?
 15 A. Correct.
 16 (Exhibit 13 was marked for identification.)
 17 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 13 is an earlier
 18 letter. Again, it looks to me like it's a form, the
 19 template that you used to write to the governors in
 20 2006 in anticipation of that year's National Day of
 21 Prayer, correct?
 22 A. Correct.
 23 Q. And this is a letter that you would have sent
 24 to each of the governors, correct?
 25 A. That's right.

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1 Q. In the second paragraph, you state that you
 2 are convinced that the theme for this year, the 2006
 3 observance, and the theme was America Honor God, "will
 4 serve as a valuable reminder that the Lord is at work
 5 in this great land and is deserving of veneration and
 6 absolute trust." Do you think that that message is
 7 somehow conveyed by the theme itself?
 8 A. Well, when I say that it will serve as a
 9 valuable reminder, I'm not saying that to the governor.
 10 I'm saying that it will serve as a valuable reminder to
 11 the nation that the Lord is at work in our great
 12 land.
 13 Q. Okay. The theme does?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Later in that same paragraph, the second
 16 paragraph of Exhibit 13, you write to the different
 17 governors that with their support, "We can further our
 18 efforts to call the nation to prayer, acknowledging our
 19 Creator, and asking for guidance and protection on
 20 behalf of our families, our government, and our Armed
 21 Forces." Do you see that language?
 22 A. I do.
 23 Q. And when you say that with the governor's
 24 support "we can further that effort," the support that
 25 you're asking for there is in the form of signing and

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1 issuing a proclamation. Am I reading that correctly?
 2 A. That's right.
 3 Q. And then when you say with that support, "we
 4 can further our efforts," now, the "we" there, is that
 5 a corporate we, is that a task force we, or is that a
 6 broader we, meaning the task force and your
 7 constituency as well as the government leaders that
 8 you're writing to?
 9 A. I would say the task force at the grass-roots
 10 level, the people at the grass-roots -- the National
 11 Day of Prayer is really a grass-roots level, they're
 12 the ones that do all the work out there. They put the
 13 events together. And so that is what is meant by that,
 14 our task force as well as those that work at the
 15 grass-roots level.
 16 Q. Were you involved in any sort of planning or
 17 conceptualizing on how the task force could turn the
 18 National Day of Prayer into a call to the nation to
 19 embrace prayer? Was that something that you undertook
 20 as a task force, to try and turn the National Day of
 21 Prayer into, or was it something that was already there
 22 that you took advantage of?
 23 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection as to form.
 24 A. Mrs. Vonette Bright was the chairman for eight
 25 years before me, and things were already, you know --

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1 in other words, I just took over the baton from her,
 2 and the groundwork was already laid pretty much by her,
 3 and I just built on it.
 4 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Did you understand that you
 5 were trying to -- I mean, you're saying Mrs. Bright had
 6 been the chairman I think you said?
 7 A. For eight years.
 8 Q. And I'm not sure of the math there. My
 9 understanding is that the task force was created in
 10 1988 and that you became a cochair in 1989.
 11 A. All I know is that Vonette told me that she
 12 had been chair for eight years.
 13 Q. Who is Mrs. Bright? I confess that I don't
 14 know her background or the name.
 15 A. Well, they have a ministry, and she's the
 16 cofounder with her husband, Dr. Bill Bright. They have
 17 a ministry called Campus Crusade for Christ, and it's a
 18 campus ministry at universities, Bible studies and
 19 support groups, and she's also a member of the National
 20 Prayer Committee, and she was also at the Lausanne
 21 Covenant meeting.
 22 Q. Do you understand that by this point in time,
 23 the National Day of Prayer has become a call to the
 24 nation to prayer?
 25 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.

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1 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 2 MR. THERIOT: Are you talking about now or the
 3 date of the exhibit?
 4 MR. BOLTON: Now.
 5 A. Can you repeat the question?
 6 MR. BOLTON: Can you read it back?
 7 (The requested question was read back by the
 8 reporter.)
 9 MR. ROSENBERG: And I just want to object both
 10 on form and assumes facts not in evidence.
 11 MR. BOLTON: I have actually never known that
 12 to be a deposition objection.
 13 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Can you answer the question
 14 A. National Day of Prayer is put -- is on many of
 15 our calendars in America, and so it is known as a day,
 16 you know, for people to come together to pray or to
 17 pray in their homes, wherever they are, in their car
 18 with a cup of coffee going to work, but it is a day to
 19 remember our nation, our families, our military in
 20 corporate prayer and individual prayer.
 21 Q. What would be lost, in your view, if the
 22 National Day of Prayer was simply a designated day but
 23 it was not an occasion for corporate prayer but merely
 24 personal prayer and reflection?
 25 A. I think we would lose a great blessing on our

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1 land. I think it's wonderful to have a day to remind
 2 people the need to pray for America, for those that
 3 lead us to ask for God's continued blessing and
 4 protection on our land and to ask for wisdom and
 5 guidance for those that lead us.
 6 Q. Now, the National Day of Prayer Task Force has
 7 become the subject of some criticism by some groups
 8 that are not your constituency. Is that true?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. And the criticism is that -- and you may have
 11 seen this term used -- the National Day of Prayer has
 12 been hijacked by groups like your own. Have you seen
 13 or heard of that, that particular phrasing?
 14 A. Yes, I've seen it in the newspaper.
 15 Q. In terms of the appearance of the National Day
 16 of Prayer as a Judeo-Christian celebration, can you
 17 understand why that would be divisive to groups that
 18 don't share your views?
 19 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 20 speculation.
 21 A. I think National Day of Prayer is probably
 22 the -- National Day of Prayer Task Force expression of
 23 the National Day of Prayer is probably the best
 24 organized and the largest, and, therefore, that's how
 25 we're seen. But, as I said before, any faith can have

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1 their own task force, can celebrate the National Day of
 2 Prayer, and can grow their movement just like we
 3 have.
 4 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) And for those that are upset,
 5 they should simply do a better job of organizing, is
 6 that really the response that you would make to them?
 7 A. I would just remind them that this day belongs
 8 to all Americans and we are a privately owned and
 9 funded 501(c)(3), and, therefore, we can express it
 10 however we decide to.
 11 Q. But there is a sense in which the official
 12 celebrations and observances of the day of prayer have
 13 become -- have a distinct Christian flavor.
 14 MR. THERIOT: Objection, assumes facts not in
 15 evidence -- or not established is the proper
 16 objection.
 17 MR. BOLTON: I'm not actually sure that I have
 18 to prove anything in a deposition. Can you read the
 19 question back to the witness?
 20 (The requested question was read back by the
 21 reporter.)
 22 MR. THERIOT: Same objection.
 23 A. Some would see it that way.
 24 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) And at least for those that
 25 see it that way and may not be of a Judeo-Christian

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1 orientation, can you understand then, whether correctly
 2 or not, why they would be upset about how the National
 3 Day of Prayer is being celebrated?
 4 MR. THERIOT: Objection, calls for
 5 speculation.
 6 A. I don't know how they would see it.
 7 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Pardon?
 8 A. I don't know how they would see it.
 9 Q. You're certainly aware, though, of the
 10 controversy and the use of the word "hijacking" in
 11 terms of the day of prayer, correct?
 12 A. When I have seen that in the newspaper, it has
 13 usually been a quote by Barry Lynn.
 14 Q. I know Mr. Lynn.
 15 A. So I see it in that context. I think he was
 16 the first one that used that.
 17 Q. Have you heard of the group Jews on First?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. I think they may actually have been the ones
 20 that used the hijacking language first.
 21 A. Well, I've seen it in the paper as quoted by
 22 Barry Lynn, but you could be right.
 23 Q. But in any event, what do you think causes
 24 this reaction against the National Day of Prayer as
 25 it's been celebrated?

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1 MR. THERIOT: Objection, speculation.
 2 A. I see it as harassment.
 3 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Pardon?
 4 A. I see it as harassment.
 5 Q. So these organizations and groups that have a
 6 problem are harassing groups like your own?
 7 A. In the way they speak, I think it's
 8 harassment. None of them offer a solution or an option
 9 to the National Day of Prayer. I mean, they just
 10 object to it.
 11 Q. And as you understand the day of prayer then,
 12 I mean, you may be better organized than other groups,
 13 but that that opportunity is available to any group
 14 that wants to celebrate and promote prayer?
 15 A. Absolutely.
 16 Q. What about people who are nonbelievers?
 17 A. Well, there was a group in Oklahoma that I
 18 think it was Atheists Against the National Day of
 19 Prayer, so they had a celebration on the National Day
 20 of Prayer. So anyone can do whatever they want. We're
 21 just expressing it from our constituent base and what
 22 we believe.
 23 Q. But you could have a celebration promoting
 24 prayer without there being a National Day of Prayer,
 25 correct?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. In which case you would be in the same boat as
 3 the Atheist group in Oklahoma, correct?
 4 MR. THERIOT: Objection, vague.
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) I mean, there is a distinction
 7 between having your own celebration without a
 8 presidential endorsement and having your observances
 9 with a presidential endorsement?
 10 MR. THERIOT: Objection, assumes facts not
 11 established. Presidential endorsement -- "endorsement"
 12 is a legal term of art. There's been no concession
 13 that the President has endorsed the National Day of
 14 Prayer.
 15 MR. BOLTON: I understand the objection,
 16 failure to prove a fact. It's a deposition that we're
 17 conducting.
 18 MR. THERIOT: I understand, but you're
 19 assuming facts that haven't been established. You're
 20 assuming, for instance, that the National Day of Prayer
 21 endorses prayer. That's a legal term of art. I'm not
 22 going to let that go without objecting, but she can
 23 answer to the extent that she knows.
 24 A. Could you restate the question?
 25 (The requested question was read back by the

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1 reporter.)
 2 A. Well, as my lawyer said, the President doesn't
 3 endorse the National Day of Prayer. He may support it,
 4 but officially he doesn't endorse it. We encourage
 5 prayer 365 days of the year, not just on the National
 6 Day of Prayer. That is just a rallying -- sort of a
 7 rallying day that is targeted to praying more for our
 8 government and its leaders, for our military, and for
 9 the people of this country. Did I answer your
 10 question?
 11 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Well, it still seems to me
 12 that the National Day of Prayer is a hard one -- I
 13 mean, you say that it's certainly recognizable for
 14 whatever religion you may believe in, but it still
 15 seems like it's a hard sell for an unbeliever, that
 16 somehow this day has something for them.
 17 MR. ROSENBERG: Objection.
 18 MR. THERIOT: Objection. It's not in the form
 19 of a question.
 20 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Would you agree that that
 21 sounds like kind of a hard sell?
 22 A. I'm not clear on the question. Maybe I'm
 23 getting tired.
 24 Q. Certainly the National Day of Prayer is not
 25 intended to -- I mean, it is intended to acknowledge

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1 religion, you would agree with that much at least,
 2 right?
 3 A. The National Day of Prayer is set aside for
 4 people to pray, and they cannot pray or they can pray.
 5 It's totally up to them. It's a day that's been given
 6 to us by our Congress. It's a day we can celebrate it
 7 or not celebrate it. There are millions of people that
 8 don't celebrate the National Day of Prayer. They don't
 9 pray on that day or maybe any other day. I don't know.
 10 (Exhibit 14 was marked for identification.)
 11 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 14 is a letter that
 12 you wrote to Secretary of Education Paige back in 2004
 13 is that correct?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. And he represented the executive branch in the
 16 '04 Cannon office building observance; is that
 17 correct?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. And in the second paragraph, you state that,
 20 "Foundational to our country has been the understanding
 21 that God," God with a capital G, "is the Source," and
 22 source also with a capital letter, "of freedom and has
 23 given His creation," His capitalized, "inalienable
 24 rights." The foundational God that you're talking
 25 about is the God of your Bible, correct?

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1 A. God of the Bible, yes. Creator God.
 2 Q. And the theme that you selected for '04 is
 3 based on supporting scripture in Leviticus, correct?
 4 A. Correct.
 5 Q. And it was your hope, as you expressed it to
 6 Secretary Paige, that the message that God is the
 7 Source of freedom and has given His creation
 8 inalienable rights, that this message would be a
 9 catalyst to draw Americans closer to God as they look
 10 to Him for guidance with their personal concerns as
 11 well as those of our leaders, community and country.
 12 You wrote that, correct?
 13 A. I wrote it along with Master Writers,
 14 correct.
 15 Q. Does it reflect more your views or Master
 16 Writers' views?
 17 A. I think in that particular sentence -- or
 18 paragraph, I think it would probably be Master Writers
 19 helped craft the way it was worded. Of course, I
 20 always read the letters and I approve them.
 21 Q. Pardon?
 22 A. I always read the letters and approve them. I
 23 don't let them go out over my signature without reading
 24 them.
 25 Q. The letter that you signed indicates that you

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1 hope that the theme for '04 will be a catalyst to draw
 2 Americans closer to God. Do you disagree with that?
 3 A. No, I agree with that.
 4 Q. And then you ask that the Secretary Paige
 5 present a brief message calling for prayer on behalf of
 6 those in the executive branch of government. And did
 7 you mean that?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And, in fact, the purpose, as you've expressed
 10 it, of this Cannon office building observance is to
 11 call for prayer, correct?
 12 A. Correct.
 13 (Exhibit 15 was marked for identification.)
 14 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Exhibit 15, have you had a
 15 chance to look at it?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And was that your invitation to the East Room?
 18 Or this was the Rose Garden observance of the National
 19 Day of Prayer in '08, correct?
 20 A. No. I believe this was in the East Room.
 21 Q. Okay.
 22 A. No. It says the Rose Garden. Do you know
 23 what, it was supposed to be the Rose Garden and then
 24 the White House changed it at the last minute and we
 25 were in the East Room.

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1 Q. And Exhibit 15, that was the invitation that
 2 you received?
 3 A. The public liaison's office sends out
 4 invitations. So, yes, this is one that we sent to some
 5 of our constituents. They allow us to choose 100
 6 people, and then they choose their list, which is
 7 usually 250, to attend that.
 8 Q. So at this East Room observance then, how many
 9 people would there be?
 10 A. I would say around 230, 250 people.
 11 Q. And the task force, you would be allowed to
 12 extend some of the invitations then?
 13 A. No. We were allowed to present some names of
 14 people that we would like to be invited. Some were and
 15 some weren't. It all depends on the White House.
 16 Q. And do you know what criteria was used to
 17 select who would attend the White House observance of
 18 the day of prayer?
 19 A. The First Lady wanted all dimensions of our
 20 culture represented there. She wanted Hispanic, black,
 21 Caucasian, she wanted people with different religions,
 22 she wanted kind of a -- how can I put it? Kind of a
 23 spattering of our culture, just different religions,
 24 different races, poor, wealthy.
 25 Q. Do you know whether any nonbelievers were

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1 invited?
 2 A. I don't know.
 3 Q. Would you expect that nonbelievers would be
 4 invited to this observance?
 5 A. I don't know. I certainly don't know
 6 everybody who believes and doesn't believe, and I doubt
 7 that the First Lady knew either.
 8 Q. In terms of that East Room observance, about
 9 how long would that observance --
 10 A. Usually 30 minutes.
 11 Q. And how was it conducted? What happened?
 12 A. Well, it was a prayer service, and so we would
 13 be led into the East Room and the President would come
 14 in later to be seated, and then the prayer service
 15 started, and that was conducted by the public liaison's
 16 office. It had music, and they had prayers by
 17 different religious people, and then the President
 18 would close by having a short speech.
 19 Q. And certainly this observance, then, was
 20 referenced as the designated National Day of Prayer,
 21 correct?
 22 A. Right.
 23 Q. And that was the reason for the occasion,
 24 correct?
 25 A. Yes. They were celebrating -- that was their

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1 way of celebrating the National Day of Prayer.
 2 (Exhibit 16 was marked for identification.)
 3 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Now, I think I presented
 4 Exhibit 16, but correct me, does it have a blue sticker
 5 on it that says Exhibit 16?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Can you identify Exhibit 16?
 8 A. Yes. It's our National Day of Prayer Task
 9 Force poster.
 10 Q. And this was something prepared by the task
 11 force?
 12 A. Actually, I misspoke before. Focus on the
 13 Family has an art department. I think I said that
 14 we're charged for the services that they give us, and
 15 so the art department gave us -- gives us three or four
 16 options for our logo and also for our posters, and then
 17 we select the one that we like.
 18 Q. Okay. So Exhibit 16 was prepared for the task
 19 force though, correct?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. How was this poster distributed? Where did
 22 you put it?
 23 A. Well, people -- we put it in our catalog, and
 24 people order it if they want it. Sometimes it's put in
 25 businesses, churches. We don't even know where it ends

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1 up, but people just order it.
 2 Q. But this is a poster that is -- I mean, is it
 3 basically a commemorative then, or is it used also
 4 for --
 5 A. We have a different poster every year that
 6 goes with the theme.
 7 Q. And at the very top it says, "58th Annual
 8 Observance," then right below that in large lettering
 9 it says, "Prayer, America's Hope," and Prayer,
 10 America's Hope, was your '09 theme?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Was this poster used for any purpose, you
 13 know, any sort of, you know, promotional purpose in
 14 terms of alerting people of the observance, or is this
 15 basically just a poster that is created for people who
 16 want to buy it from your catalog and then do whatever
 17 they want with it?
 18 A. That's correct.
 19 Q. The latter?
 20 A. The latter, yes.
 21 Q. So it's really a commemorative type of poster
 22 then?
 23 A. Right.
 24 Q. Okay. It says "58th Annual Observance," and
 25 then immediately below it there's a reference in large

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1 letters to the task force's annual theme. Certainly
 2 the 58th Annual Observance is not referencing anything
 3 to do with the task force itself, correct?
 4 A. No. I mean, yes, you're correct about that.
 5 Q. Pardon?
 6 A. You're correct.
 7 Q. And then down at the bottom it says, "National
 8 Day of Prayer" and it gives the date and it references
 9 the Cannon House Office Building, Caucus Room. With
 10 this particular commemorative, is there any cue to
 11 people who look at this that this is actually a task
 12 force observance?
 13 A. Most of the people that join us for the
 14 National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. I would say
 15 are constituents that know about the task force. So
 16 I'm sure they would know.
 17 Q. But to people that weren't involved in these
 18 actual observances -- you say the people who actually
 19 participate in the observances would know?
 20 A. Uh-huh.
 21 Q. If I was not a participant in the observance
 22 in the Cannon office building, is there anything in
 23 Exhibit 16 that would readily alert me that this is a
 24 task force presentation?
 25 A. I don't know how people would see this. I

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1 can't speculate on what you would think or what other
 2 people would think.
 3 Q. Can we agree, without speculation, that there
 4 is nothing on here that makes reference to the task
 5 force?
 6 A. Correct.
 7 Q. Okay.
 8 A. Can I ask you a question?
 9 Q. Yes.
 10 A. Where did you get this? What did this come
 11 off of?
 12 Q. I don't know.
 13 A. Because it's possible that it did have our
 14 logo down here saying "task force." It's possible,
 15 because we usually don't do a poster without a logo on
 16 it.
 17 Q. It has the Bates numbers from your lawyer, so
 18 it would have come from --
 19 MR. THERIOT: Yeah, we provided that to them.
 20 The original, you're right, might have something that's
 21 a little clearer.
 22 A. We usually all put our logo on this that says
 23 "task force."
 24 (Exhibit 17 was marked for identification.)
 25 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Can you identify Exhibit 17?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. What is it?
 3 A. It is the program. It's what people are given
 4 when they come into the National Day of Prayer
 5 observance. They're given a program.
 6 Q. Okay. And would this program have been
 7 prepared by or for the task force?
 8 A. No. We prepare this.
 9 Q. So this would have been something that was
 10 prepared by the task force itself?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And this is the program for the '09 Cannon
 13 office building observance, correct?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. And it says at the top, it says, "National Day
 16 of Prayer, Cannon Program." It gives an address. And
 17 then it says 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It is a three-hour
 18 program?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And about how many attendees are there for the
 21 Cannon program?
 22 A. I think the building holds about 350.
 23 Q. And then that guest list, that's one that the
 24 task force controls?
 25 A. We invite some people, but it's open to the

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1 public. We have people coming from all over the
 2 nation.
 3 Q. So in terms of the number of invites that the
 4 task force sends out, of that 250 people, about how
 5 many of those would be at the invitation of the task
 6 force?
 7 A. Our public affairs person would have the
 8 answer to that.
 9 Q. Okay. Do you have any understanding or
 10 estimate of how much of that audience is task force
 11 invited?
 12 A. It varies from year to year. You would have
 13 to ask Faye Tharp. She's our public affairs
 14 director.
 15 Q. Now, when people come to the Cannon program
 16 are they given this program?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Are they given anything else? Do they get any
 19 other written materials?
 20 A. I think, on occasion, we've given out our
 21 bookmarks which gives the prayer for the 7 times 7, the
 22 government, military, media, education, church and
 23 family.
 24 Q. You said it's open to the public. And
 25 presumably the people that are the guests of the task

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1 force, I assume they have some sort of reserved
 2 seating.
 3 A. We have a few reserved seats up front, and we
 4 also reserve a section for the congressmen and senators
 5 that might drop in so they will always be able to find
 6 a seat. We save a couple of rows for them.
 7 Q. For those people that are not guests, invited
 8 guests of the task force, but are members of the
 9 public, how are they made aware? How is this Cannon
 10 office National Day of Prayer observance advertised?
 11 A. Well, we do radio spots, and we announce that
 12 we're going to be having a Washington, D.C. service at
 13 the Cannon House office building, and we put a little
 14 reminder in roll call that goes in Congress. You know,
 15 you can do that, just announcing that there will be a
 16 service in the Cannon office building, and probably in
 17 some of our literature that we send out.
 18 Q. In terms of Exhibit 17, in its own right, is
 19 there an indication on Exhibit 17 that this is an
 20 observance that is sponsored by the National Day of
 21 Prayer Task Force?
 22 A. Not on this particular program.
 23 Q. To your knowledge, is that typical or
 24 atypical?
 25 A. This is the inside of the program. The

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1 outside of the program could have the logo saying "task
 2 force." Do you have a copy of that?
 3 Q. I don't know.
 4 A. I can get a copy.
 5 Q. Certainly on Exhibit 17 itself, it is
 6 identified as the Cannon Caucus Room Observance,
 7 correct?
 8 A. Yes. But if you look down at the keynote
 9 speaker, it says, "Mrs. Beth Moore, Honorary Chairman,
 10 National Day of Prayer Task Force."
 11 Q. Well, it also says, "Prayer for the Nations,
 12 Ambassador to the United States," and I'm assuming that
 13 the indication of any of these other people does not
 14 actually identify the sponsor of this observance,
 15 correct?
 16 A. Well, down below it says, "Prayer Challenge,
 17 Mr. Brian Toon, Vice Chairman, National Day of Prayer
 18 Task Force."
 19 MR. THERIOT: Rich, I was just provided a
 20 document that appears to be the whole document. If you
 21 want to, you can refer to that.
 22 MR. BOLTON: Can we mark this?
 23 MR. ROSENBERG: Yeah.
 24 (Exhibit 18 was marked for identification.)
 25 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) What we've marked as Exhibit

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1 18 looks like -- you made reference that Exhibit 17 was
 2 an inside page of the Cannon Caucus Room Observance
 3 from '09 and that it was part of a larger program. Is
 4 Exhibit 18 the entire program?
 5 A. Yes, I believe it is.
 6 Q. The first page, at least as we looked at it,
 7 doesn't necessarily -- I didn't see any reference to
 8 the task force on the first page or the second page.
 9 Am I correct?
 10 A. This is a program that's a bifold. All the
 11 information is on it, front, inside and back. It's all
 12 one piece.
 13 Q. At least as it's been reproduced here, the
 14 third page, though, does show basically the task
 15 force -- basically your employees -- and I don't have a
 16 copy in front of me, but certainly many references to
 17 the task force, correct?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. So there's certainly nothing then about
 20 Exhibit 18 that would indicate that this is a
 21 nondenominational observance, correct? I mean, the
 22 Cannon office building observance is -- I mean, it's a
 23 task force presentation, correct?
 24 A. Other faiths are not included, but the program
 25 is a Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of

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1 Prayer, our task force expression.
 2 Q. And certainly in '09, that's what it was,
 3 correct?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And that's been the tenor of the observance in
 6 the Cannon office building since you've been the
 7 chairman of the task force, correct?
 8 A. Since Vonette Bright has been the chairman.
 9 Q. You became the cochair in 1989. And as I
 10 understand it, the task force was created in '88. Do
 11 you know whether the task force was created before or
 12 after the National Day of Prayer was celebrated in
 13 1988?
 14 A. Vonette Bright would know the answer to that.
 15 I'm not sure on that.
 16 Q. Certainly, you've been involved pretty much
 17 then, if not for the entire -- all of the observances
 18 in the Cannon office building, certainly all of them
 19 except one, correct?
 20 A. I don't know how many previous services were
 21 in the Cannon House office building, but I have
 22 attended and helped with the program since 1991 when
 23 became chairman.
 24 Q. And then do you attend as well, then, all of
 25 the -- I mean, in the last few years, you had attended

1 the White House observance, and then would you go from
2 the White House observance to the Cannon office
3 building observance?

4 A. Yes, because that's our national observance,
5 so I would be there.

6 Q. Reverend Claude Pike, is that a name that
7 you're familiar with?

8 A. No.

9 Q. My understanding is that in 1982, he was
10 trying to encourage President Reagan to make a bigger
11 thing of the National Day of Prayer and that Ronald
12 Reagan gathered religious leaders in 1982 to witness
13 his signing of the National Day of Prayer proclamation
14 that year. Were you or your husband invited to that?

15 A. I was invited.

16 Q. Okay. Do you recall it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you attend?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were you simply not able to attend, or was
21 there any -- did you have any objection to attending?

22 A. I don't remember what the circumstances were,
23 but I didn't attend it, and I think it was my choice,
24 but I'm sorry now that I didn't because it was a very
25 important thing in our nation, and I wish I would have

1 A. Well, I think any time a president signs into
2 law some type of bill, I think it's an honor to be
3 there. And since I am a product of prayer as a small
4 child and have grown up believing in the power of
5 prayer, and to have a president sign into law the first
6 Thursday of May, that's a very big thing to me.

7 Q. Did it give it more meaning than the
8 legislation that was signed by President Truman in
9 1952?

10 A. I think so. I think people of faith wanted to
11 have a day that they could know was going to be a day
12 of prayer instead of just letting it be at the whim of
13 the President.

14 Q. Certainly calendar makers would agree with
15 that?

16 A. Yes. Hallmark liked it.

17 Q. Pardon?

18 A. Hallmark liked it.

19 Q. And, certainly, your staff would agree with
20 that; it's a lot easier to organize around a date
21 certain, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Susan Turner, is that a name you're familiar
24 with?

25 A. Yes.

1 been there.

2 Q. It was a very important what?

3 A. I think it was a very important document that
4 was signed for our nation, and I wish I had been
5 there.

6 Q. And just so we're clear, what did you
7 understand that you were invited to watch President
8 Reagan sign in 1982?

9 A. I heard that he was going to sign into law
10 that the first Thursday of May was going to be our
11 national day of prayer.

12 Q. And just so we're clear, I was referring to a
13 different -- that was in 1988. My understanding was
14 that President Reagan gathered some religious leaders
15 to witness his signing, just his signing of the 1982
16 National Day of Prayer proclamation. So we're talking
17 about different things. And just so we're clear, that
18 1982 signing of the proclamation was not what you were
19 referring to that you were invited to?

20 A. No. I was referring to the signing into law
21 the first Thursday of May.

22 Q. And in terms of the 1988 signing into law that
23 mandated the first Thursday in May of each year to be
24 designated the day of prayer, why do you believe that
25 that was an important occasion?

1 Q. And who is Susan Turner?

2 A. She's a volunteer. She comes and helps at our
3 office in many ways, and she provides scholarship money
4 for when we have a prayer coleader's conference or a
5 prayer summit and people want to come but can't afford
6 to come, she provides assistance for them.

7 Q. Was she involved in the National Day of Prayer
8 coordinators' school event? There's a document that
9 I've seen called the NDP Coordinators' School Prayer
10 Event.

11 A. That's misnamed. We have a prayer summit in
12 October which used to be called coordinators'
13 conference, and that's where we bring our coordinators
14 from around the nation here for a prayer service.

15 Q. In terms of the constituencies that the task
16 force has come to mobilize, you've got a lot of
17 different groups with people targeting different
18 groups. Are schools in the observance of the National
19 Day of Prayer a targeted group?

20 A. Not really. If any school does anything on
21 the National Day of Prayer, it's usually student led
22 and it is within the parameter of what is
23 appropriate.

24 Q. Is there anybody who has sort of designated
25 responsibility for mobilizing schools and school-aged

1 kids?

2 A. No.

3 Q. The National Day of Prayer, on its Website,
4 indicates that its goal is to provide collective
5 servant leadership to the national prayer movement.
6 National prayer movement, is that a term of art that is
7 identified with anything in particular?

8 A. The National Prayer Committee is made up of
9 leaders of prayer ministries all across the nation. So
10 I think he was using a broad term there.

11 MR. BOLTON: I'm almost done. Why don't we
12 take about a five-minute break just for me to look
13 through my notes, and then I'll at least be done.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay.

15 MR. BOLTON: Thank you.

16 (A brief break was taken.)

17 (Exhibit 19 was marked for identification.)

18 Q. (BY MR. BOLTON) Mrs. Dobson, I've handed you
19 what I've marked as Exhibit 19. Can you identify that
20 document?

21 A. Let me look at this.

22 Q. While you're looking, I will tell you that
23 when I looked at it, it looked like it was directed to
24 coordinators of National Day of Prayer observances at
25 the school level.

1 A. Susan has a real heart for children, and she's
2 a real -- what I would call a prayer warrior, and
3 there's so much violence and corruptness in our schools
4 that, I think, she really felt it would be a good thing
5 if students that wanted to pray had a place and a time
6 to pray on the National Day of Prayer. It could be on
7 the 50-yard line, it could be around their flagpole in
8 the morning. They have this prayer day, I believe it's
9 in September, See You at the Pole, where students
10 gather around the flagpoles for prayer, and we don't
11 have anything to do with that. That's something
12 else.

13 Q. When you say she's a "prayer warrior," it's
14 interesting, because when I read through the guide that
15 she put together there, there seems to be a lot of
16 pushback to something that happened in 1962, what she
17 construed to be the Supreme Court's decision that said
18 that religion had to be banished from the schools. Is
19 that something that you know her to be quite concerned
20 about?

21 A. I have not talked to her about it. I don't
22 know if she's concerned about it.

23 Q. Certainly Exhibit 19, though, is an official
24 task force document. Are there views in there that are
25 expressed that you disagree with that you've had a

1 A. It looked like Susan Taylor put this
2 together -- or Turner, I'm sorry. What was your
3 question?

4 Q. Well, first of all, have you seen that
5 document before?

6 A. I have not.

7 Q. I mean, do you have any reason to believe that
8 that's not a National Day of Prayer Task Force
9 document?

10 A. No, I believe it is a National Day of Prayer
11 Coordinators' School Prayer Event Guide as it says. I
12 just have not seen it.

13 Q. Does it refresh your recollection, then, as to
14 coordinating activities directed toward observances at
15 the school level?

16 A. Susan Turner put this together for our state
17 coordinators, I believe, and what is allowed and what
18 is not allowed in schools for prayer on the National
19 Day of Prayer or prayer any time. There are certain
20 restrictions.

21 Q. And Susan Taylor apparently put this together,
22 correct?

23 A. Turner, yes.

24 Q. Does she have any background, or why would
25 this be something that she would have done?

1 chance to see? And I recognize you've only glanced at
2 it.

3 A. I have not read it, but I would assume that
4 our executive director has read it and okayed it.

5 Q. Okay. With regard to the formation of the
6 task force by the National Prayer Committee, are
7 there -- first of all, the National Prayer Committee, I
8 assume, is a wholly transparent organization? I mean,
9 its membership is public, correct?

10 A. On the back of our letterhead, it has all the
11 names.

12 Q. And since I don't know anybody, I wouldn't
13 recognize names that I should recognize. Were there
14 any government officials on the National Prayer
15 Committee, to your knowledge --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- at the time of the formation of the task
18 force?

19 A. No.

20 Q. I think I asked whether or not you had had
21 occasion to talk with President Bush about the National
22 Day of Prayer, and I believe your answer was that you
23 had not.

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you know whether other task force staff or

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1 employees had any direct communication with the White
 2 House regarding the National Day of Prayer?
 3 A. With the White House or with the President?
 4 Q. The President or his -- with the White House.
 5 A. No one has ever had a conversation with the
 6 President. The only one that we have spoken to at the
 7 White House was the public liaison who is in charge, I
 8 guess, of the program and whether they have a prayer
 9 service or not.
 10 Q. Have you or your husband ever stayed at the
 11 White House in regards to the National Day of Prayer?
 12 A. It would be nice, but no. No.
 13 Q. Have you been to the White House for any
 14 nonNational Day of Prayer functions?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And on how many occasions?
 17 A. When I have attended, it has always been with
 18 my husband, and it's usually been some religious
 19 leadership meeting that the President wanted to have or
 20 a signing of a bill about abortion, we were invited for
 21 that, along with -- not privately, but along with like
 22 200 people.
 23 Q. And how many times have you been at one of
 24 those functions?
 25 A. Under President George W. Bush?

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1 Q. Any president. I won't ask how many that
 2 would be.
 3 A. I have no idea, because my husband has been on
 4 commissions with presidents.
 5 Q. So is it fair to say that you've been to the
 6 White House --
 7 A. Several times but not privately, always with a
 8 group.
 9 Q. Do you believe that the Bible is literally
 10 true word for word and is the inspired word of God?
 11 A. I do.
 12 MR. BOLTON: I think that's all I have.
 13 EXAMINATION
 14 BY MR. THERIOT:
 15 Q. Mrs. Dobson, I just had a couple of questions
 16 to clarify the record. With the original setting up of
 17 the National Day of Prayer Task Force, that was
 18 undertaken by the National Prayer Committee and
 19 Mrs. Bright; is that right?
 20 A. The initial, yes.
 21 Q. And you weren't involved in that whatsoever?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. And then as far as you're aware, any funding
 24 from Focus on the Family for the task force didn't
 25 occur until after you became chairman; is that right?

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1 A. That's right.
 2 MR. THERIOT: I believe that's all I have.
 3 MR. ROSENBERG: I actually have a few
 4 questions.
 5 EXAMINATION
 6 BY MR. ROSENBERG:
 7 Q. Good afternoon, Mrs. Dobson.
 8 A. Good afternoon.
 9 Q. My name is Brad Rosenberg. I'm a trial
 10 attorney in the civil division of the United States
 11 Department of Justice. And as we discussed a little
 12 bit earlier, I'm here representing President Obama and
 13 White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs. When this
 14 lawsuit was first filed, as the Department of Justice
 15 attorney, I was representing President Bush and
 16 then-White House Press Secretary Dana Perino but, of
 17 course, there was a change in administration in January
 18 2009. We haven't met before today, have we?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Mrs. Dobson, are you a lawyer?
 21 A. No.
 22 Q. Do you have any legal training?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. You testified earlier today a little bit about
 25 the National Day of Prayer statute. Are you familiar

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1 with the specific language in that statute?
 2 A. I don't think we ever used the word "statute."
 3 Q. You are aware, of course, that there is a
 4 statute regarding the National Day of Prayer?
 5 A. Well, explain to me what you mean by
 6 "statute."
 7 Q. The law that Congress passed, for example, in
 8 1952.
 9 A. Yes, okay.
 10 Q. And then Congress passed another law in 1988
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Are you familiar with the specific language
 13 used in that law regarding the National Day of
 14 Prayer?
 15 A. I have read it, but I couldn't repeat it to
 16 you.
 17 Q. Have you reviewed the legislative history of
 18 that statute?
 19 A. Not really.
 20 Q. We discussed earlier the fact that in 2009,
 21 President Obama did not hold an event at the White
 22 House. And you were a bit disappointed by that?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. We've also discussed at some length the event
 25 that was held in 2009 at the Cannon House office

1 building. Can you just describe for me what took place
2 at that event?

3 A. Well, it's a prayer service, and it's open to
4 the public, and we have a program. Every year we have
5 an honorary chairperson. This year it's Dr. Franklin
6 Graham. Last year it was Beth Moore. So the honorary
7 chairperson gives a message, and then we have
8 representatives that come over and represent, as I
9 said, the three branches of government plus the
10 military, and then sometimes we highlight sports,
11 sometimes we highlight media, and then we'll have
12 somebody from those areas come over and represent them.
13 And so -- and then we have some worship music, and it's
14 just a prayer service. It lasts from 9 to 12.

15 Q. And actually that was the next question I was
16 going to ask, when the event at the Cannon House office
17 building took place. Did it wrap up at 12 p.m.?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you recall when President Obama issued his
20 2009 National Day of Prayer proclamation?

21 A. All I know is that it got on the White House
22 Website at 3:00 on the National Day of Prayer.

23 Q. Did you have access to the White House's
24 National Day of Prayer proclamation before 3:00?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You testified earlier that -- and I don't have
2 exact notes on this, so clarify if I'm misstating this
3 in any way, that the National Day of Prayer Task Force
4 encourages individuals to pray?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you consider prayer to be a voluntary
7 activity?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So if somebody is inclined to pray, of course,
10 they can go ahead and pray, but if not, do you think
11 that the National Day of Prayer Task Force would
12 require them to pray in any way?

13 A. We never require anybody to pray. It's
14 optional. We might request it, but we don't demand
15 it.

16 Q. And there's no way that you could, of course,
17 demand it?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Because everybody has the right to express
20 their own religious views or the lack of their
21 religious views in their own manner?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. I just had one last question. At the end of
24 Mr. Bolton's questioning, he asked about the number of
25 times that you visited the White House. Have you

1 Q. Was that proclamation used at all during the
2 services at the Cannon House office building?

3 A. It was too late to be used by the Cannon House
4 observance and by our coordinators and by anyone else.
5 I think it's the latest any president has ever written
6 a proclamation.

7 Q. Now, if the Court, the District Court in this
8 case, were to strike down the National Day of Prayer
9 statute and were to order that the President could not
10 issue National Day of Prayer proclamations, could the
11 National Day of Prayer Task Force still coordinate
12 prayer events on the first Thursday in May of each
13 year?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it could still call it the National Day of
16 Prayer, could it not?

17 A. I don't know what the legal ramifications of
18 that are. If we're allowed to, yes, we could still
19 call it a National Day of Prayer, I imagine.

20 Q. And, in fact, the fact that you had an event
21 at the Cannon House office building before the
22 President of the United States even issued a
23 proclamation would demonstrate that the National Day of
24 Prayer Task Force could still coordinate events?

25 A. That's correct.

1 visited the White House at all since President Obama
2 took office?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Has your husband?

5 A. No.

6 MR. ROSENBERG: I think that's all I have.
7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. BOLTON: Tom, are you there?

9 MR. BELLAVIA: Yes, I am.

10 MR. BOLTON: Did you want to ask anything?

11 MR. BELLAVIA: No, I don't have any questions.
12 Thanks.

13 MR. BOLTON: Let me just ask one follow-up.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. BOLTON:

16 Q. Attorney Rosenberg asked whether you had any
17 legal training, and you said no. Would I be fair to
18 conclude that you don't wish to have any legal
19 training?

20 A. This is the first time I've ever been deposed,
21 so no, no, I don't think that's in my future.

22 MR. BOLTON: I'm just teasing you. Thank you
23 very much.

24 MR. ROSENBERG: Thanks.

25 (The proceedings concluded at 2:30 p.m.)

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I, SHIRLEY DOBSON, the witness in the above deposition, have read the within transcript of my testimony. I have made _____ changes in said testimony and have stated such changes (if any) and the reason for each change on a separate sheet attached to this transcript. My testimony as given herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Shirley Dobson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

My commission expires _____.

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Connie S. Dyke, Register Professional Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, appointed to take the deposition of SHIRLEY DOBSON, do certify that before the deposition he was duly sworn by me to testify to the truth; that the deposition was taken by me at 8605 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on November 10, 2009, then reduced to typewritten form consisting of 179 pages herein; that the foregoing is a true transcript of the questions asked, testimony given, and proceedings had.

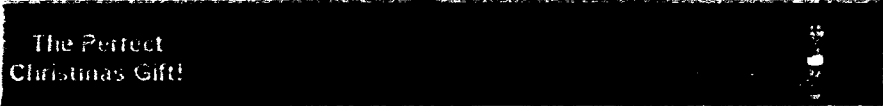
I further certify that I am not related to any party herein or their counsel, and have no interest in the result of this litigation.

In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of November, 2009.

Connie S. Dyke, RPR, CRR
Notary Public

My commission expires June 28, 2010

EXHIBIT 112



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FEATURED ARTICLE:
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WORLDNETDAILY EXCLUSIVE

Christian heritage a no-show in new \$600M visitors center Chuck Norris asks Congress, 'Can I help fix this problem?'

Posted: September 28, 2008
11:53 pm Eastern

By Bob Unruh
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American taxpayers have spent more than \$600 million on a new visitors' center at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and it will have acres of marble floors and walls, photographs of Earth Day, information about an AIDS rally and details about the nation's industrial sector. What it will not include is America's Christian heritage, raising objections from members of Congress and drawing an inquiry from Chuck Norris about whether he can help fix it.



Entrance to new underground visitors center in Washington, D.C

The new 580,000-square-foot center, mostly built underneath the grounds just east of the U.S. Capitol to protect the scenic views of the historic building, is about three-quarters the size of the Capitol itself, has exhibition galleries, theaters, a 550-seat cafeteria, gift shops and myriad other features.

The project, run by the office of the architect of the Capitol, has been delayed from its original opening date set several years ago and has cost hundreds of millions of dollars more than estimated, officials have confirmed.

But the finished product still, according to members of Congress, is seriously lacking. Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., said 108 members of Congress have signed a letter to the architect's office expressing their concerns that the historical content simply is inaccurate.

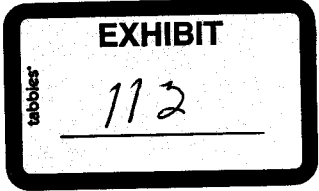
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Among the references to God or American's religious history that are omitted is the nation's motto, "In God We Trust," the letter said.

"Our concern is not just with the Capitol Visitor Center, but with [an] increasing pattern of attempts to remove references to our religious heritage from our nation's capital," said Forbes. "The Capitol Visitor Center is just one example of efforts to censor God, faith, and religion from our historical buildings, documents, and ceremonies."



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The revisionism that attempts to remove God and Christianity from America's history has been documented by WND's coverage of the work of Todd DuBord, the former pastor at Lake Almanor Community Church in California. He now serves as a special chaplain for Chuck Norris' organizations.

DuBord was leading trips of tourists to Washington and nearby areas to review the nation's Christian heritage when he started noticing what appeared to be a deliberate campaign to remove references to the Bible and Christianity.

He revealed when tour guides at the U.S. Supreme Court building called depictions of the Ten Commandments the "Ten Amendments," and he followed up by disclosing a number of other apparently related efforts to wipe Christianity from U.S. history, including efforts at Jefferson's Monticello, where tour guides told him they were unable to talk about the religious influences there.

He later documented how officials at the Washington Monument had placed a replica of the 100-ounce solid aluminum capstone, which is inscribed with the Latin "Praise Be to God," so that visitors could not read the words and a resulting investigation by the National Park Service prompted a change in that procedure.



Washington Monument

His large body of research, including documentation and photographs, now has been assembled on his website, NationalTreasures.org.

WND also has reported on efforts to make history politically correct, such as calling Europeans' arrival in North America an "invasion," for the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement last year, even though the first goal of those sent out to America was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The new Capitol Visitor Center appears to be falling under the influence of that same politically correct agenda, according to the letter from Congress.

"Historical buildings like the Capitol Visitor Center are there to tell the story of our nation," said Forbes. "When religious history is removed from these displays, the American public is not able to observe an accurate depiction of our nation's story. We owe it to those who have gone before us and to our future generations to provide a complete representation of our nation's heritage. We will continue to fight until this is achieved in the Capitol Visitor Center."

He said the Congressional Prayer Caucus, whose members' signatures were among those on the letter, have been working to restore "references to our religious heritage in the past, and we are aiming to do it again now with the Capitol Visitor Center."

The letter said, in addition to omitting any reference to the national motto, there are "factual inaccuracies regarding Capitol church services," and references to "religion, morality, and knowledge" in the Northwest Ordinance have been edited out.

"In addition, the Capitol Visitor Center includes photos from Earth Day, an AIDS rally, various casino grounds, and factories, but it does not include photos from monumental religious events such as the National Day of Prayer or the March for Life event, attended by thousands annually, among other things," the letter said.

Officials running the Capitol also have tried to strip the mention of God from flag-folding ceremonies at veterans' funerals and previously attempted to edit "God" from congressional flag certificates, which are statements issued with flags that have been flown over the Capitol.

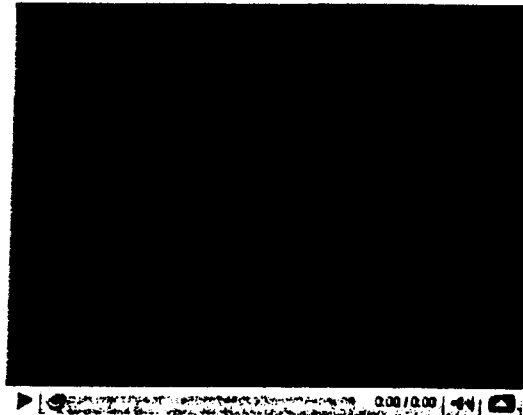
A letter responding to members of Congress from Stephen T. Ayers, acting architect of the Capitol, didn't directly address the questions raised.

"The Capitol Preservation Commission, a bicameral, bipartisan committee, was selected by the U.S. Congress to oversee the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center, including determining the content of the exhibitry," he wrote. "Comprised of representatives elected by the people of the United States, the CPC worked to ensure that the Capitol Visitor Center is of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Pastor DuBord's work also was highlighted in Norris' new book, "Black Belt Patriotism," which gives a no-holds-barred assessment of American culture, hitting everything from family values to national security.

Norris writes, "It seems like wherever you turn these days, the news is bad. Illegal immigrants are swarming over our borders. Our nation and American families are crippled by debt. We remain vulnerable to Islamist terrorist attacks. Judges ignore the Constitution and instead legislate from the bench. Faith and traditional values are under incessant assault from the media, leftist lawyers, and the liberal establishment. The core message of the Declaration of Independence – that everyone has a God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – is under threat from liberals who deny the right to life (or even the very idea of God-given rights), and who think the answer to every problem is a government program. They think that God, if He exists, might not know best, but liberal-run government certainly does."

An organization called [Wallbuilders](#) also has posted a [YouTube video](#) about the attacks on the Christian history in Washington, which can be seen here:



DuBord told WND that Norris was concerned about the editing of Christianity from America's history at the new center.

"He told me last night to get hold of the Prayer Caucus to see if there is anything we can do to help them rectify the situation," he said.

DuBord said if it's history, it's history. The situation is just that simple.

"If this is history, and this is our Capitol, then teach our heritage," he said. "Don't revise it. Don't skew it. Don't distort it."

He said the goal appears to be erasing from America's heritage the Christian influences that started the nation, the Christian leadership throughout its years and the Christian fundamentals on which it is based.

Government officials report the idea for the center predates the first Iraq war, but it was stalled during the 1990s because of costs. It was revived in 1998 after a gunman killed two Capitol police. A budget of \$265 million was proposed with a completion date of 2004.

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