

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):  
S; 2018-0942-F

FOIA Number:  
S

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

---

**OA/ID Number:** 13666  
**Folder ID Number:** 13666-008

---

**Folder Title:**  
National Day of Prayer Breakfast 5/4/89 [OA 6263]

---

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

---

(Smith/Simon)  
May 2, 1989  
Draft One  
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST  
~~WASHINGTON, D.C.~~ STAFF DINING ROOM  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓  
Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the  
National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and  
Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You know, it is often said of a group or individual that "He  
hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to address an  
audience about whom that will never be said.

First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you --  
America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to this,  
America's House.

*Proclamation  
5942  
3-17-89*  
We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and  
loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a  
National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer:  
"God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God,  
do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you  
we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments.

And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

Prayer.

In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray. And, since then, every President has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

This morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition. But I'm pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm. For 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means, I think, that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

see  
RR  
Proclamations  
1983 +  
1986 in file

see  
file

PL 100-307  
Assigned  
5/5/88

Our work has gone on, now, for more than 200 years -- work best embodied in four simple words: "In God We Trust."

*see file*  
 It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told ~~his home~~ <sup>the</sup> people of his hometown that ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~great~~ God which helped General Washington must ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> help him now. ~~no.~~ "Without ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~great~~ assistance, I will surely fail. With ~~that~~ <sup>that assistance</sup> I cannot fail."

*of that Divine Being, Lincoln said, cannot succeed.*

*in*  
 And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

3-22-89  
Lancaster  
Pa.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And found the problem which is America's problem: The rising use of drugs.

and Menomonte

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? ~~The Amish said it best.~~ Faith and family, they responded. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. They can help revere the Golden Rule, and "Do Unto Others." And let us reflect the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America.

NY Times  
5-1-89  
P. B-2  
Diana  
Bauman

BIC 653-9808

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I ~~knelt to pray,~~ I

thought of how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

This strong man -- also, a gentle man -- knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. He was right, and is today. For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

# # # #

REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST  
STATE DINING ROOM  
MAY 4, 1989/8 A.M.

SIMON

DR. AND MRS. BRIGHT, REVEREND CLERGY, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER COMMITTEE, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

YOU KNOW, IT IS OFTEN SAID OF A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL THAT "HE HASN'T GOT A PRAYER." WELL, I AM DELIGHTED TO ADDRESS AN AUDIENCE ABOUT WHOM THAT WILL NEVER BE SAID.

- 2 -

FIRST, I WANT TO SAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO WELCOME YOU -- AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS, CIVIC, AND POLITICAL LEADERS -- TO THIS, AMERICA'S HOUSE.

WE GATHER HERE AS FRIENDS, AND AS BELIEVERS IN A HUMANE AND LOVING GOD. AND WE MEET ON A SPECIAL DAY FOR AMERICA -- A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

YOU KNOW, A LITTLE BOY ONCE UTTERED THIS SIMPLE PRAYER: "GOD BLESS MOTHER AND DADDY, MY BROTHER AND SISTER.

AND, OH GOD, DO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BECAUSE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU WE'RE ALL SUNK."

AT TIMES, I'M SURE ALL OF US HAVE SHARED THOSE SENTIMENTS. AND SO DID THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, FOR IT WAS THEY WHO IN 1775 ISSUED THE FIRST OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION OF A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

IN 1952, CONGRESS DECREED THAT A SPECIFIC DATE BE SET ASIDE EACH YEAR FOR AMERICANS TO GATHER IN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP TO PRAY.

AND, SINCE THEN, EVERY PRESIDENT HAS PROCLAIMED A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

THIS MORNING, LIKE MY PREDECESSORS, I AM PROUD TO CONTINUE THAT TRADITION. BUT I'M PLEASED TO NOTE THAT TODAY MARKS A DEPARTURE FROM THE NORM. FOR 1989 MARKS THE FIRST YEAR OF AN OFFICIAL PERMANENT DATE OF DESIGNATION -- FROM NOW ON, THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MAY.

MY FRIENDS, I'M GLAD THAT TOGETHER, WE COULD COMMEMORATE THIS EVENT. AND JUST FOR A FEW MOMENTS, I'D LIKE TO FOCUS ON WHAT -- TO ME, AND I HOPE TO YOU -- OUR OBSERVANCE MEANS.

IT MEANS THAT WE BELIEVE IN THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. BUT NOT IN A SEPARATION OF MORALITY AND STATE. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL TOWARDS PARTICULAR RELIGIONS, IT NEED NOT REMAIN NEUTRAL TOWARDS VALUES THAT AMERICANS SUPPORT.

YES, WE BELIEVE IN PLURALISM, AND IN MUTUAL TOLERANCE. FOR WE ARE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" -- AND WE WERE PLACED HERE ON EARTH TO DO HIS WORK.

OUR WORK HAS GONE ON NOW FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS -- WORK BEST EMBODIED IN FOUR SIMPLE WORDS: "IN GOD WE TRUST."

IT WAS TO THAT HIGHER BEING THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON LOOKED WHEN, ADDRESSING HIS TROOPS IN 1776, HE SAID, "THE FATE OF UNBORN MILLIONS WILL NOW DEPEND, UNDER GOD, ON THE COURAGE AND CONDUCT OF THIS ARMY."

LINCOLN, TOO, BELIEVED IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE. LEAVING SPRINGFIELD TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY, HE TOLD THE PEOPLE OF HIS HOMETOWN THAT THE GOD WHICH HELPED GENERAL WASHINGTON MUST NOW HELP HIM.

"WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DIVINE BEING," LINCOLN SAID, "I CANNOT SUCCEED. WITH THAT ASSISTANCE, I CANNOT FAIL."

AND SOME OF YOU MAY BE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER HOW ON D-DAY, OVER A NATIONWIDE RADIO NETWORK, FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT PRAYED FOR THE SAFETY AND SUCCESS OF OUR INVADING FORCE. "OUR SONS," HE SAID, "PRIDE OF OUR NATION. LEAD THEM STRAIGHT AND TRUE.

GIVE STRENGTH TO THEIR ARMS, STOUTNESS TO THEIR HEARTS, STEADFASTNESS IN THEIR FAITH."

OUR HISTORY TELLS US WHAT OUR HEARTS CONFIRM. AS AMERICANS, WE ARE A RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. WE PRIZE COMPASSION AND SELF-SACRIFICE. WE KNOW THAT AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE AMERICA IS GOOD.

AS PRESIDENT, I'M REMINDED OF THAT CONSTANTLY. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, FOR INSTANCE, I JOURNEYED TO CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

FIRST, I WENT TO A LOCAL HIGH-SCHOOL. AND DISCUSSED A PROBLEM WHICH IS AMERICA'S PROBLEM: THE RISING USE OF DRUGS.

BUT THEN, I TRAVELED A FEW MILES TO MEET WITH AMISH AND MENNONITE LEADERS. WONDERFUL PEOPLE, KIND. YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY DON'T HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM. YOU KNOW WHY? FAITH AND FAMILY, THEY TOLD ME. AGAINST THEM, DRUGS DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.

MY FRIENDS, FAITH AND FAMILY CAN HELP US HONOR GOD IN A MOST PROFOUND AND PERSONAL WAY -- DAILY, AS HUMAN BEINGS, BY THE CONDUCT OF OUR LIVES. FAITH AND FAMILY TEACH US NOT ONLY TO REVERE BUT TO PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE. THEY ALSO HELP US REFLECT THE ETERNAL VALUES OF DECENCY, HUMILITY, AND CARING.

I THOUGHT OF THOSE VALUES LAST SUNDAY, WHEN I VISITED NEW YORK TO MARK THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST PRESIDENT'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS. FOR IT WAS THEN THAT, LIKE WASHINGTON TWO CENTURIES AGO, I PRAYED AT SAINT PAUL'S CHAPEL, WHERE IN 1789 A PRAYER SERVICE WAS OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAINS OF CONGRESS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO ME, THE ENTIRE DAY WAS MOVING, INTIMATE. BUT MY TIME AT SAINT PAUL'S WAS ESPECIALLY SO. FOR AS I PRAYED, I THOUGHT OF HOW -- EVEN THEN -- WASHINGTON HAD REALIZED THAT POLITICAL VALUES WITHOUT MORAL VALUES CANNOT SUSTAIN A NATION.

THIS STRONG YET GENTLE MAN KNEW THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMERICA, WHILE IT MIGHT RELY ON ITS PRESIDENTS, WOULD SURELY DEPEND ON PROVIDENCE.

WHAT WASHINGTON BELIEVED SO STRONGLY OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IS JUST AS TRUE TODAY. FOR WITHOUT GOD'S HELP, WE CAN DO NOTHING. WITH IT, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS -- FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND FOR THE WORLD.

LET ME THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE THIS MORNING -- AND FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE TO MAKE OURS A BETTER, MORE DECENT, MORE PEACEFUL NATION. AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY TODAY, I TAKE SPECIAL JOY IN SAYING: GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MAY 3, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON CW

FROM: CURT SMITH S

SUBJECT: MAY 4 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

I. SUMMARY

At 8 a.m., May 4, you will address approximately 60 people, mostly religious leaders, in the State Dining Room. The breakfast will honor the National Day of Prayer.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks focus on the role of prayer in American history, and life. They sketch the belief in divine providence by leaders like Washington, Lincoln, and FDR, and discuss how faith and family enhance America today.

(Smith/Simon)  
May 3, 1989  
Draft Two  
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST  
STATE DINING ROOM  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You know, it is often said of a group or individual that "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to address an audience about whom that will never be said.

First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to this, America's House.

We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments. And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray. And, since then, every President has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

This morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition. But I'm pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm. For 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. While the government must remain neutral towards particular religions, it need not remain neutral towards values that Americans support. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

Our work has gone on now for more than 200 years -- work best embodied in four simple words: "In God We Trust."

It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told the people of his hometown that "the God which helped General Washington must now help me. Without the great assistance of the Diving Being," Lincoln said, "I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And discussed a problem which is America's problem: the rising use of drugs.

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish and Mennonite leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? Faith and family, they told me. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. Faith and family teach us not only to revere but to practice the Golden Rule. They also help us reflect the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America.

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I prayed, I thought of

how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

This strong yet gentle man knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. What Washington believed so strongly over two hundred years ago, is just as true today. For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

# # # #

(Smith/Simon)  
May 2, 1989  
Draft One  
PRAYER

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRAYER BREAKFAST  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
MAY 4, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bright, Reverend Clergy, Members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, Members of the House and Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You know, it is often said of a group or individual that "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to address an audience about whom that will never be said.

First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you -- America's religious, civic, and political leaders -- to this, America's House.

We gather here as friends, and as believers in a humane and loving God. And we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister. And, oh God, do take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all sunk."

At times, I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments. And so did the Continental Congress, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship to pray. And, since then, every President has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

This morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition. But I'm pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm. For 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together, we could commemorate this event. And just for a few moments, I'd like to focus on what -- to me, and I hope to you -- our observance means.

It means, I think, that we believe in the separation of church and state. But not in a separation of morality and state. Yes, we believe in pluralism, and in mutual tolerance. For we are "One Nation Under God" -- and we were placed here on earth to do His work.

Our work has gone on, now, for more than 200 years -- work best embodied in four simple words: "In God We Trust."

It was to that Higher Being that George Washington looked when, addressing his troops in 1776, he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Lincoln, too, believed in divine providence. Leaving Springfield to assume the Presidency, he told his home people that "The great God which helped General Washington must now help me. Without that great assistance, I will surely fail. With it, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm. As Americans, we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good.

As President, I'm reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago, for instance, I journeyed to central Pennsylvania. First, I went to a local high-school. And found the problem which is America's problem: The rising use of drugs.

But then, I traveled a few miles to meet with Amish leaders. Wonderful people, kind. You know what? They don't have a drug problem. You know why? The Amish said it best. "Faith and family," they responded. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

My friends, faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way -- daily, as human beings, by the conduct of our lives. They can help revere the Golden Rule, and "Do Unto Others." And let us reflect the eternal values of decency, humility, and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday, when I visited New York to mark the 200th anniversary of our first President's first Inaugural Address. For it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, I prayed at Saint Paul's Chapel, where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for the United States of America.

To me, the entire day was moving, intimate. But my time at Saint Paul's was especially so. For as I knelt to pray, I

thought of how -- even then -- Washington had realized that political values without moral values cannot sustain a Nation.

This strong man -- also, a gentle man -- knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its presidents, would surely depend on Providence. He was right, and is today. For without God's help, we can do nothing. With it, we can do great things -- for our children, and for the world.

Let me thank you for coming here this morning -- and all you've done to make ours a better, more decent, more peaceful Nation. And you'll understand why today, I take special joy in saying: God bless you all, and God bless America.

# # # #

United States, especially the educational community, to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.  
(Sept. 17, 1968, P. L. 90-498, 82 Stat. 848.)

**§ 169g. Memorial Day as day of prayer for permanent peace**

The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe each May 30, Memorial Day, by praying, each in accordance with his religious faith, for permanent peace; designating a period during such day in which all the people of the United States may unite in prayer for a permanent peace; calling upon all the people of the United States to unite in prayer at such time; and calling upon the newspapers, radio stations, and all other mediums of information to join in observing such day and period of prayer.  
(May 11, 1950, ch 182, 64 Stat. 158.)

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

Memorial Day as legal public holiday on last Monday in May, 5 USCS § 6103.

Display of flag for Memorial Day on last Monday in May, 36 USCS § 174.

**§ 169h. National Day of Prayer**

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.  
(Apr. 17, 1952, ch 216, 66 Stat. 64.)

**HISTORY; ANCILLARY LAWS AND DIRECTIVES**

**Explanatory notes:**

This section was formerly classified to 36 USCS § 185.

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.

○

36. *D-Day Prayer on the Invasion of Normandy*

Eaker; to Admirals Cunningham and Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them and over all of our gallant, fighting men.

36 ( The President's D-Day Prayer on the  
Invasion of Normandy. June 6, 1944

*My fellow Americans:*

LAST night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest — until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

## Farewell Address at Springfield, Illinois<sup>1</sup>

[A. Version]

February 11, 1861

My friends—No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe every thing. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now<sup>2</sup> leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good,<sup>3</sup> let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell

[B. Version]<sup>4</sup>

My Friends:

No one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is, perhaps, greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support, and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. Again I bid you an affectionate farewell.

[C. Version]<sup>5</sup>

Friends,

No one who has never been placed in a like position, can understand my feelings at this hour, nor the oppressive sadness I feel at this parting. For more than a quarter of a century I have lived among you, and during all that time I have received nothing but kindness at your hands. Here I have lived from my youth until now I am an old man. Here the most sacred ties of earth were assumed; here all my children were born; and here one of them lies buried. To you, dear friends, I owe all that I have, all that I am.

FEBRUARY 11, 1861

All the strange, chequered past seems to crowd now upon my mind. To-day I leave you; I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon General Washington. Unless the great God who assisted him, shall be with and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind, and Almighty arm that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me, I shall not fail, I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now. To him I commend you all—permit me to ask that with equal security and faith, you all will invoke His wisdom and guidance for me. With these few words I must leave you—for how long I know not. Friends, one and all, I must now bid you an affectionate farewell.

<sup>1</sup>AD, DLC-RTL. Written down in pencil after the event, as the train was leaving Springfield, the manuscript begins in Lincoln's handwriting and concludes in Nicolay's. Both Lincoln's and Nicolay's portions are, though cramped and irregular, very legibly and deliberately written. Henry Villard's story that he at one time had the pencilled manuscript and lost it, may or may not be true. His statement that John Hay took notes and that a stenographer was present, may also be true, but these documents have not been found. The other versions given below may stem from these sources. For Villard's account see *Lincoln on the Eve of '61, A Journalist's Story*, edited by Harold G. and Oswald Garrison Villard (1941) and *Memoirs of Henry Villard* (1904).

<sup>2</sup>Lincoln's handwriting ends and Nicolay's begins.

<sup>3</sup>The remainder of this sentence is in Lincoln's handwriting.

<sup>4</sup>This version is from a broadside distributed in April, 1865, by The American News Company of New York (PHi; IHi). It is in all but a few marks of punctuation identical with that which appeared in *Harper's Weekly* and various eastern newspapers on February 12, 1861.

<sup>5</sup>*Illinois State Journal*, February 12, 1861. Some authorities, beginning with Herndon, regard this text as the most accurate one. If this version was taken down as Lincoln spoke, this may be so. Unfortunately, however, no verification of this possibility, earlier than Villard's, exists, and his account contains too many discrepancies to be accepted verbatim.

## Remarks at Tolono, Illinois<sup>1</sup>

February 11, 1861

I am leaving you on an errand of national importance, attended, as you are aware, with considerable difficulties. Let us believe, as some poet has expressed it:—

Behind the cloud the sun is still shining.

I bid you an affectionate farewell.

<sup>1</sup>New York *Tribune* and New York *Herald*, February 12, 1861.

## Remarks at Danville, Illinois<sup>1</sup>

February 11, 1861

Mr. Lincoln again stepped out, and addressing himself to the enthusiastic gathering, remarked, that if he had any blessings to

“Ever since I arrived at the state of manhood, and acquainted myself with the general history of mankind, I have felt a sincere passion for liberty. The history of nations, doomed to perpetual slavery in consequence of yielding up to tyrants their natural-born liberties, I read with a sort of philosophical horror; so that the first systematical and bloody attempt, at Lexington, to enslave America thoroughly electrified my mind, and fully determined me to take part with my country.”

Ethan Allen,  
Narrative of his captivity, 1779



Gen. George Washington crossing the Delaware, Dec. 8, 1776

“The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die.”

George Washington,  
Address to American troops before the  
Battle of Long Island, July, 1776

hide from the reality of drug abuse in our communities and then hope for the best—hope that someone else will solve the problem. Your children depend on you to help separate the fact from the fiction, to help them make a choice and then stick with it, when it comes to resisting drugs.

To the kids: Let's send the message that drugs are dangerous; that you don't need approval from others; that your parents, the people in your schools and your community care. But most of all, you must understand that the decision against drugs is yours to make, no one else's. When it's time to draw the line against drugs, the final choice is yours.

I get a lot of mail. Some of it is very serious. Some of it very disturbing. And some of it quite amusing. Get a lot of letters from school kids. I got one not long ago from a girl in California—fifth grader. She told me how she wanted to change the world—wonderfully idealistic—and that making the world a better place meant putting an end to drug abuse. And then she wrote, "I don't know if I can do it all by myself. I need your help." Well, she does, and she's going to get it. And, yes, I can help, and so can all of you. And that's the answer we owe our children. But there's something else that the little girl who wrote that letter needs to know. There is something that she can do, that all of us here can do, to bring ourselves one step closer to winning the war on drugs: We can take a stand and say, We don't do drugs. And anytime anyone of us takes that stand, that is another battle won. As a community, we must work to make it as easy as possible for our children to make the choice against drugs. We can do it by creating an environment—a safe, secure space, if you will—where our kids can acquire a sense of self and self-confidence so secure that no amount of peer group pressure can push them into taking drugs.

I mentioned that I'm going to talk about enforcement later on today, but I don't want to leave here without saying to you the enforcement side of this equation is absolutely essential, whether it's in the corridors of this outstanding high achievement school or whether it's downtown Lancaster or wherever it is. The authorities must en-

force the law, and we must make an example of those who are pushing drugs on to the lives of the others around here. You know, most Americans want to see their towns restored to a time when drugs came in from the prescriptions from the local doctor. But with your hard work and commitment, that day will come sooner. It must come.

So, my message to you today is: Don't do drugs. Keep fighting back. Fight for your community, for your children. The war on drugs will ultimately be won one day, one battle at a time—the battles each and every one of us wage to keep our families and communities free from drug abuse. We've learned a hard lesson. Unless we join together and fight, it can happen here. But if we do work as a team and as a community, it won't.

And so, let these banners be a battle cry—and that Conestoga Valley, in Lancaster, in communities like yours all over the country, we will join together, turn the tide, and bring the drug epidemic to an end with finality—over—history. Now, we need your help.

Thank you very much. Thank you all.

*Note: The President spoke at 9:17 a.m. in the school gymnasium. He was introduced by Chad Weaver, president of the student body. Prior to the remarks, the President met with participants in a drug rehabilitation program and their families.*

### Remarks at a Meeting With Amish and Mennonite Leaders in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

March 22, 1989

*The President.* Let me say in the beginning I appreciate you all taking time from your busy day. And one of the reasons I want to come here, accompanied by our Attorney General and former Secretary of Education, who has been charged with the whole program on fighting drugs, Bill Bennett, is to salute you, because as we look at a national drug problem, we find that in communities such as yours, because of your adherence to family values and faith, the

problem  
hopeful  
over at  
with sc  
nonexis  
there t  
family  
to me,  
crusade  
I want  
is an  
maybe  
commu  
scourg  
of the  
take t  
to be  
Me  
comin  
to bl  
happy  
some  
issue

My  
which  
youth  
here.  
a ma  
if I s

Th  
with  
M  
drivi  
you  
boss

Sc  
boot  
havi  
was  
Goc  
hav  
abo  
Wh  
Ind  
life  
the  
the  
ma  
do  
do  
ha  
th  
G  
ou

make an exam-  
ing drugs on to  
und here. You  
it to see their  
en drugs came  
from the local  
work and com-  
sooner. It must

lay is: Don't do  
Fight for your  
n. The war on  
one day, one  
each and every  
r families and  
; abuse. We've  
ss we join to-  
en here. But if  
; a community,

's be a battle  
ley, in Lancas-  
rs all over the  
her, turn the  
emic to an end  
Now, we need

nk you all.

t 9:17 a.m. in  
as introduced  
of the student  
the President  
rug rehabilita-  
es.

Amish and  
aster,

in the begin-  
ng time from  
the reasons I  
anied by our  
Secretary of  
ged with the  
ugs, Bill Ben-  
as we look at  
find that in  
cause of your  
nd faith, the

problem appears to be close to nonexistent, hopefully nonexistent. And I have been over at the school talking there, and met with some kids where regrettably it isn't nonexistent. And I said in my comments there that these values of neighborhood and family and faith—somehow they come back to me, anyway, if we engage in this national crusade, to be fundamentally important. So, I wanted to start by saying that, though this is an antinarcotics swing, this stop is to maybe hear from you all as to how your community manages to stave off the scourge of drugs. And anyway, that was one of the things. I don't know who wants to take the lead here, but we're very pleased to be with you.

*Mennonite leader.* We thank you for coming here. First of all, we wish the Lord to bless our meeting here. And we are happy to have you here, but we are also somewhat saddened that it takes the drug issue and alcohol to bring you here.

My wife and I have eight children, two of which are married. And two are with a youth group. Three are going to school here. Our 18-year-old son was driving with a man one time, and he said, "Do you mind if I smoke pot?"

*The President.* Your kid was driving with—yes.

*Mennonite leader.* In a pickup, he was driving along with the pickup—and "Do you mind if I smoke pot? Will you tell the boss?" He said, "I sure will."

So, it makes me almost quiver in my boots when I think that that youth could have been tempted to do that because he was exposed to it. And it's by the grace of God that we have what we have what we have as values, that you were just talking about, handed down to us from our fathers. When they came to this country, it was the Indians and the bears that they feared for life. Now it's the highway with alcohol and the drug influence. When we drive down the road, we don't know what shape that man is that's coming towards us.

And we are concerned. What could we do as Christians to maintain that value? We do not want to uphold ourselves that we have something that we worked for and that we deserve, but it is by the grace of God that we have been given it through our parents and have withstood—took their

stand to this day. And we would like to ask you what we could do as Christians to help to stop that flow from Lancaster County.

*The President.* Well, in terms of the interdiction of the flow, I would think that that would largely be the responsibility, to some degree, of local law enforcement, because I'm told that even in a marvelous rural community, some of the fields are used for illicit drops. And you know, they signal the plane, and the plane goes on. So, in that area, encouraging your local law enforcement people would be very important.

We realize that we have—the three of us and Senator Specter here and our Chief of Staff, John Sununu—a disproportionate responsibility in the interdiction. I say "we," the Federal Government, because we're talking about at the borders. And Dick Thornburgh is just back from meeting with various heads of government in Central America, where a lot of the crops, as you know, are grown.

But I guess what I'd say—and then I'd like to ask Bill Bennett, who, as you know, was formerly our Secretary of Education, to say a word—but I guess what I'd say is: keeping moral underpinnings with your community and then, hopefully, having others see that as an example. I don't want to argue with you because you're too good a host, but I think it is important I'm here because it gives us a chance to have a conversation like this and to understand a little better why it is—and you've already touched on it—faith—why it is that you all have been able to withstand the pressure when others have not.

*Mennonite leader.* My concern is how can we maintain that? We have a preschool son, four-year-old. When he is 18 and the problem is exploding, so to speak—

*The President.* Exactly. Well, that's what our whole new—I don't want to say the word "crusade," that's a little like a cliché—but I view it as that in terms of both the demand and the supply side. You mentioned interdiction, and that's the supply. But the whole demand side—I have gotten to use the White House as a bully pulpit to argue and to encourage people all across the country on the demand side.

*Mennonite leader.* We appreciate your concern.

**The President.** We met with some kids—we've got to do it.

But, Bill, now, you've fought this in the education role and now as our drug czar. Why don't you add some to that?

**Secretary Bennett.** Well, I just—

**The President.** That was a very good question you raised.

**Secretary Bennett.** —wonder what your children say or your grandchildren say about this. Is it their sense that—as they report to you—that things are better, worse, or more temptation to do this out there, or less? What are the kinds of things that they report on this? As you see this threat—I think we all take it very seriously—but for me, a lot of the way I see the threat is through the eyes of young people. They are really there on the line.

**Mennonite leader.** They're concerned.

**Secretary Bennett.** And I wonder what they are telling you in terms of things. Are things better than they were 5 years ago? Are they worse than they are?

**Mennonite leader.** In my opinion, it would be worse, because our two oldest sons work at public places and they both were exposed to drugs and had opportunity to buy. Now, what I'm concerned about is, like I said, the four-year-old. By the time he comes of age, will he be able to say no?

**Secretary Bennett.** Yes.

**Mennonite leader.** Will he continue to maintain that value that we are trying to plant into our children that was implanted into us, as President Bush just said about values. This is what we uphold more than money. I don't want to take much of your time, but we want to teach our children there's more of a greater value to go to bed with a clear conscience than to make money on drugs or to get high on it.

**Secretary Bennett.** Well, we have found in all the drug studies that the best community, the best protection for a young person, is what one of the people writing has called the internal compass in the sense of high aspiration: deeply rooted values, faith, and a closeness to family. These are the things, if you wanted to design a system which would protect the children.

And I don't think, whatever kind of drug we see, whatever kind of onslaught you see, that those rules will change. It seems to me that has been the case throughout history in

terms of the best things we can do for our young people. One of the things that we see is a very strong affirmation on the part of young people who have experimented with drugs, in many cases, have almost been destroyed—they come back and reaffirm what we've seen. They tell us, having gone through the trial, having gone through the fire, that what was missing in their lives was this.

**The President.** May I tell you one other additional—this gets a little bit off, but it gives you an idea of how we're looking at this. I don't want to see Federal legislation that diminishes the family. We've got a big, new thing on child care now. And I think the Federal Government does have some responsible role in child care. But our approach is to give the families the choice, to give the families—well, put it this way, some religious institutions are new day-care services. I don't want to see the Federal law defined so narrowly by the bureaucracy in Washington that it erodes out the community, religious institutions, or family from child care. And yet I do think the Federal Government has a role in helping the private sector, helping the States in the question of child care.

So, philosophically, you say, What does this have to do with drugs? Because I think you are a shining example of what family and faith can do. Where we have responsibilities at the Federal level, we must see that inadvertently we don't weaken the role of family or weaken the role of, I'd say, faith in our country. I believe in separation of church and state; but I don't want to see the church people get together in a church community and take care of the other guy's kids—work from whatever it is, and then have them denied that because of Federal money serving as a magnet that has to go into some federally certified, rubber-stamped institution down the street. So, we will be working at the Federal level to see that we don't impose on communities legislation that, even though it isn't intended that way, would diminish and weaken the family. And it isn't easy, but there are other areas, I think, where we're going to be able to—Dick, you want to say something?

**The Attorney General.** Well, I, as you know, am in the law enforcement side of

the effort to  
Bush—I'm su  
established a  
gentler Amer  
we support t  
this country.  
is not one  
where drug  
some of ou  
President th  
kinder, gent  
have to be r  
Americans: t  
those who a  
captured so  
that's a job  
dent's supp  
porting mor  
prosecutors,  
tude toward  
tional comr  
are grown a  
share in he  
drugs into y

But for n  
to undersc  
even from  
important i  
you've enu  
communitie  
community  
the appetit  
of drugs, t  
ished to a  
problem.

But we'r  
ty to visit  
carry the  
your comm

**Mennon**  
your conc  
sake of th  
think the  
drug addi  
ties; and t  
at a very  
they don  
they're g  
taught of  
school ha  
as they g  
that they  
drugs or  
for the w  
ful to th

the effort to deal with drugs. President Bush—I'm sure you've heard it said—has established a goal of providing a kinder and gentler America. And I think that's one that we support to a man or woman throughout this country. But a kinder, gentler America is not one where drugs are abused and where drug traffickers rule the streets of some of our communities. I've told the President that if we're going to have a kinder, gentler America, we're going to have to be rougher and tougher with some Americans: those who are drug traffickers, those who are the urban terrorists that have captured so many of our communities. And that's a job for law enforcement. The President's supporting tougher laws. He's supporting more resources for our police and prosecutors, and supporting a tougher attitude toward those countries in the international community where these substances are grown and produced. And we'll do our share in helping to interrupt the flow of drugs into your community.

But for my two cents' worth, I just want to underscore what the President has said: even from a law enforcement view, how important it is for the types of values that you've enunciated and practiced in your communities to gain currency in every community across the United States so that the appetite for drugs and the consumption of drugs, the demand for drugs, is diminished to a point where we don't have this problem.

But we're very grateful for the opportunity to visit with you, learn from you, and carry the message that's exemplified by your communities elsewhere. Thank you.

*Mennonite leader.* We're very happy for your concern and what you're doing for the sake of the young people of the U.S. And I think the fact that we have no trouble with drug addiction is because of the close family ties; and the children are taught obedience at a very young age and self-denial, that they don't have everything they wish as they're growing up; and because they are taught of God, and urged to pray, and in school have prayer and Bible reading. And as they grow up, they have a sense of value that they're not just out seeking thrills and drugs or any other. We appreciate it much for the warnings on the tobacco ads: harmful to the body—wish it were on the alco-

holic drinks. And we surely appreciate your efforts.

Another thing that I think why we have no drug problem is for things we do not do. We do not have television, radio; and as I understand, almost—coming into the homes of sexual things and robbers, and children growing up in that atmosphere. It's just that they're at a disadvantage, I think.

You read in the Bible of the people who do not seek after God, and that God is not in all their thoughts. I think that is why the young people of America are going astray with drugs. We wish God would be more in their thoughts, and you respond to a higher power.

*Mennonite leader.* I also welcome President Bush. We feel kind of honored to be here. And as for us, as a people, as we are—it's one advantage that we have strived for, and that is like Aaron there said, that we don't have television and recorded music. We feel sorry that our Constitution or our courts have taken the prayer and Bible reading out of schools. Then, after that has left, we also have this rock music. And those things just enter into the mind, that the child will do things that they had not intended to do, and then they are turned to drugs. It leads to that.

Now, if our moral fiber—not ruin it through removing the prayer and Bible, we'd have a stronger America today. But that is the thing. This is why we feel what we have is because we try to avoid this recorded music, rock music, and those things that the child has control—the spirit can be—rather than it being entertained by the music of the world and some of the—as you all know, that hard music is—well, you know all about it. And that's where we shy away strongly, because it just does something to a person. And that's from our stand of viewpoint. That's where we feel we have some advantage with our children, because they are not exposed to that point, that they have more self-control.

*The President.* You know, it's interesting on the music. I think of the action that Susan Baker, who is the wife of our Secretary of State, and Tipper Gore, who is the wife of a man who ran for President last year and a United States Senator—they got outraged by just some of the really bad

also loved liberty, as exemplified by Andrew Mellon. And tonight I would like to take an opportunity to thank his son, Paul Mellon, for all he's doing for the arts and for what he has done for the National Gallery.

I understand that at today's meeting the trustees accepted the extraordinary gift of paintings, sculpture, and graphic art that we've seen, from Paul Mellon. Well, I, too, am proud to accept this gift on behalf of the people of the United States.

Paul, it would be inappropriate to say that you're following in your father's footsteps, because you're leaving some mighty big footprints of your own. Of course, one would expect nothing less from an old horse cavalryman like yourself. And you can take that from an old horse cavalryman himself. [Laughter]

Seriously, though, the work that you're doing, like the generous contributions of so many here tonight, is something for which all of you can be rightfully proud.

Andrew Mellon's original gifts, his collection and the funds for the gallery, were made on the condition that the gallery would not bear his name, but the name of the Nation instead. He knew well that a country is as refined and decent as its people. Our cultural future, as it should be, is not in the hands of a minister or commissar of arts but, instead, is dependent on farsighted men and women who are dedicated to the cultural betterment of America—people who yearn to share their love of art with their fellow citizens and take it

upon themselves to do what is necessary for cultural and artistic advancement.

Early in our Republic, our country was often referred to as a new Athens. Many basic ideals of democracy can be traced back to that ancient city-state, a city with elections and an open marketplace called an agora; a city, a gathering center for mankind where intellectual and artistic creativity reached new heights—left artistic treasures that speak to us through the ages. Today we should all be grateful to citizens like Andrew Mellon who left, as did the Founding Fathers, a legacy like that of Athens which will speak to mankind for a thousand years.

I don't know that it was Athens, but I do know that there was a Greek city-state back in that time that had a custom that has intrigued me very much. When a citizen had a proposal to make for a government program, he made it standing on a chair with a noose around his neck. [Laughter] And if the people liked his proposal, they removed the noose; if they didn't, they kicked the chair. [Laughter] I don't suppose we could institute that. [Laughter] We'll stick with the arts and the other democratic ideals.

But I thank you for letting me be a part, and Nancy be a part, of your efforts in behalf of the National Gallery of Art. Thank you all, and God bless you.

*Note: The President spoke at 10:32 p.m. in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art.*

### Proclamation 5017—National Day of Prayer, 1983 January 27, 1983

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

Prayer is the mainspring of the American spirit, a fundamental tenet of our people since before the Republic was founded. A year before the Declaration of Independence, in 1775, the Continental Congress

proclaimed the first National Day of Prayer as the initial positive action they asked of every colonist.

Two hundred years ago in 1783, the Treaty of Paris officially ended the long, weary Revolutionary War during which a National Day of Prayer had been proclaimed every spring for eight years. When peace came the National Day of Prayer was

*Jan. 28 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1983*

forgotten. For almost half a century, as the Nation grew in power and wealth, we put aside this deepest expression of American belief—our national dependence on the Providence of God.

It took the tragedy of the Civil War to restore a National Day of Prayer. As Abraham Lincoln said, "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."

Revived as an annual observance by Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a great unifying force for our citizens who come from all the great religions of the world. Prayer unites people. This common expression of reverence heals and brings us together as a Nation and we pray it may one day bring renewed respect for God to all the peoples of the world.

From General Washington's struggle at Valley Forge to the present, this Nation has fervently sought and received divine guidance as it pursued the course of history. This occasion 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.

*Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5, 1983, National Day of Prayer. I call upon every citizen of this great Nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of the hearts of all mankind.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of Jan., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.*

RONALD REAGAN

*[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:22 a.m., January 28, 1983]*

*Note: The text of the proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 28.*

## Remarks at a Meeting of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia

*January 28, 1983*

George Brooks, Ann Griffiths, members of the board, and the family members, and Members of Congress:

I think most of you know that during the course of any given day, we meet with an assortment of groups who represent a cross section of interests and causes. None of those meetings are routine, but I must tell you that this meeting today is more than special.

The anguish you've suffered—the families of brave men of listed prisoners of war or missing in action—the misery and anguish is unspeakable, something the rest of us can really never know even in a partial measure. Twelve years ago, I said something to a group of you in California that I believe is even more true today: If they could be here

today, millions of Americans, from every corner of this land, who have only a glimmer of your pain, would say to you, "We want with all our hearts to share your burden."

And what a burden you've had to bear. You watched as we disengaged from Vietnam, and many of our prisoners of war returned for an emotional homecoming. You've seen task forces and committees hold hearings and issue reports that attempted to foreclose hope. But as the tragic flow of refugees from Indochina began a few years ago, those columns of humanity who had suffered hunger and thirst and disease and piracy brought with them firsthand, "live sighting" reports of American prisoners held captive after 1973. As this

*Mar. 19 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1981*

## Nomination of Donald E. Sowle To Be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy

*March 19, 1981*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Donald E. Sowle to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Sowle is president of Don Sowle Associates, Inc., a diversified management consulting firm specializing in the fields of acquisition management, procurement, logistics, contract administration, business organization and planning, and management information systems.

Mr. Sowle was the Director of Studies for the Commission on Government Procurement. He was a group vice president, Gulf & Western Industries, Inc., with full management responsibility for three operating divisions engaged in commercial and defense work, primarily related to the aerospace industry. He was also assistant direc-

tor of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, with responsibilities for the direction of JPL's divisions of financial management, procurement, material services, and the management systems and data analysis office. Mr. Sowle was Director, Contract Administration Services, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He was graduated from Central Michigan University and the University of Chicago. He is a trustee of the National Contract Management Association and former Executive Director of the Government Procurement Commission. Mr. Sowle is an adjunct professor at American University.

Mr. Sowle resides in McLean, Va. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., on May 27, 1915.

## Proclamation 4826—National Day of Prayer, 1981

*March 19, 1981*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### *A Proclamation*

Our Nation's motto—"In God We Trust"—was not chosen lightly. It reflects a basic recognition that there is a divine authority in the universe to which this Nation owes homage.

Throughout our history Americans have put their faith in God and no one can doubt that we have been blessed for it. The earliest settlers of this land came in search of religious freedom. Landing on a desolate shoreline, they established a spiritual foundation that has served us ever since.

It was the hard work of our people, the freedom they enjoyed and their faith in God that built this country and made it the envy of the world. In all of our great cities and towns evidence of the faith of our people is found: houses of worship of every

denomination are among the oldest structures.

While never willing to bow to a tyrant, our forefathers were always willing to get to their knees before God. When catastrophe threatened, they turned to God for deliverance. When the harvest was bountiful the first thought was thanksgiving to God.

Prayer is today as powerful a force in our Nation as it has ever been. We as a Nation should never forget this source of strength. And while recognizing that the freedom to choose a Godly path is the essence of liberty, as a Nation we cannot but hope that more of our citizens would, through prayer, come into a closer relationship with their Maker.

Recognizing our great heritage, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved April 17, 1952 ( 36 U.S.C. 169h; 66 Stat. 64), has called upon the President to set aside a suit-

able day each year as a National Day of Prayer.

*Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 7, 1981, National Day of Prayer. On that day I ask all who believe to join with me in giving thanks to Almighty God for the blessings He has bestowed on this land and the protection He affords us as a people. Let us as a Nation join together before God, fully aware of the trials that lie ahead and the need, yes, the necessity, for divine guid-*

ance. With unshakeable faith in God and the liberty which is heritage, we as a free Nation will surely survive and prosper.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of March, in year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.*

RONALD REAGAN

*[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:33 a.m., March 20, 1981]*

### Message to the Congress Reporting Budget Rescissions and a Deferral

*March 19, 1981*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report 33 proposals to rescind a total of \$2.8 billion in budget authority previously provided by the Congress, and one new deferral of \$8.0 million.

The details of the rescission proposals and

the deferral are contained in the attached reports.

RONALD REAGAN

The White House,  
March 19, 1981.

*Note: The attachments detailing the rescission proposals and the deferral are printed in the Federal Register of March 24, 1981.*

### Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With the Auto Task Force

*March 19, 1981*

The President today met with members of the Auto Task Force. He was presented with a series of options. The discussion focused in part on the current situation in the auto industry, pending legislation on Capitol Hill, the overall U.S. trade posture, principles underlying American trade, and U.S. relations with Japan.

The question of how to proceed with regard to imports was left open for further discussion by the President. The President told the group he wanted to have an oppor-

tunity to meet with others before making a decision on the import issue. The earliest possible time we could expect that would be late next week.

The President reemphasized he remains committed to the principles of free trade and, in general, he believes the Government should not become deeply entangled with the economic fortunes of any company or industry. He believes the auto industry is now involved in a situation that is not entirely of its own making and the forces of

He graduated from Colorado State University (B.S., 1958). He is married, has two children, and resides in Laurel, MD. He was born April 18, 1933, in Hartford, CT.

### Nomination of Bohdan A. Futey To Be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States *January 13, 1986*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Bohdan A. Futey to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, for the term expiring September 30, 1988. This is a reappointment.

Since 1984 Mr. Futey has been Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States. Previously he was a partner in the law firm of Bazarko, Futey & Oryshkewych in Parma, OH (1975-1984).

He was executive assistant to the mayor of Cleveland and director of the bicentennial for Cleveland (1974-1975) and chief assistant police prosecutor for the Cleveland law department (1972-1974).

Mr. Futey graduated from Western Reserve University (B.A., 1962; M.A., 1964) and Cleveland Marshall Law School (J.D., 1968). He is married, has three children, and resides in Washington, DC. He was born July 28, 1939.

### Proclamation 5429—National Day of Prayer *January 13, 1986*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

Prayer is deeply woven into the fabric of our history from its very beginnings. The same Continental Congress that declared our independence also proclaimed a National Day of Prayer. And from that time forward, it would be hard to exaggerate the role that prayer has played in the lives of individual Americans and in the life of the Nation as a whole.

Our greatest leaders have always turned to prayer at times of crisis. We recall the moving story of George Washington kneeling in the snow at Valley Forge to ask for divine assistance when the fate of our fledgling Nation hung in the balance. And Abraham Lincoln tells us that on the eve of the Battle of Gettysburg, "I went into my room and got down on my knees in prayer." Never before, he added, had he prayed "with as much earnestness."

More than once, Lincoln also summoned

the entire Nation to its knees before the God in Whose hand lies the destiny of nations. It was, he said, "fit and becoming in all peoples, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God . . . and to pray with all fervency and contrition. . . ."

After the shock of Pearl Harbor, Franklin Roosevelt told us he took courage from the thought that "the vast majority of the members of the human race" joined us in a common prayer for victory as we fought for "freedom under God."

Prayer, of course, is deeply personal: the way in which it finds expression depends on our individual dispositions as well as on our religious convictions. Just as our religious institutions are guaranteed freedom in this land, so also do we cherish the diversity of our faiths and the freedom afforded to each of us to pray according to the promptings of our individual conscience.

Yet the light of prayer has a common core: it is our hopes and aspirations; our sorrows and fears; our deep remorse and

Jan. 14 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1986

renewed resolve; our thanks and joyful praise; and most especially our love—all turned toward God. The Talmud aptly calls prayer the “service of the heart,” and Christ enjoins us to “pray without ceasing.”

Accordingly, like the Presidents who have come before me, I invite my fellow citizens to join me in earnest prayer that the God Who has led and protected us through so many trials and favored us with such abundant blessings may continue to watch over our land. Let us never forget the wise counsel of Theodore Roosevelt that “all our extraordinary material development . . . will go for nothing unless with that growth goes hand in hand the moral, the spiritual growth that will enable us to use aright the other as an instrument.”

In prayer, let us ask that God’s light may illuminate the minds and hearts of our people and our leaders, so that we may meet the challenges that lie before us with courage and wisdom and justice. In prayer let us recall with confidence the promise of old that if we humble ourselves before God and pray and seek His face, He will surely hear and forgive and heal and bless our land.

By joint resolution of the Congress approved April 17, 1952, the recognition of a

particular day set aside each year as a National Day of Prayer has become a cherished national tradition. Since that time, every President has proclaimed an annual National Day of Prayer, resuming the tradition begun by the Continental Congress.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 1, 1986, as National Day of Prayer. I call upon all Americans to join me in prayer that day. I ask them to gather in their homes and places of worship with their ministers and teachers of religion and heads of families, to give thanks for every good thing God has done for us and to seek His guidance and strength in the conduct of our lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:31 p.m., January 14, 1986]

Note: The proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14.

### Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for President León Febres-Cordero Ribadeneyra of Ecuador January 14, 1986

*President Reagan.* President and Mrs. Febres-Cordero, other distinguished guests, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you as friends of the United States and as friends of human freedom.

Ecuador’s return to elected government in 1979 was one of the first waves of a rising tide of liberty witnessed throughout the hemisphere. President Febres-Cordero, we have watched with admiration as you and your government have strived to come to grips with the serious threats to Ecuador’s economic, political, and social well-being. You are an articulate champion of free enterprise and those democratic ideals

that are close to the hearts of the American people. All those who love liberty are impressed with your courage and responsibility in attacking not just the symptoms but the underlying causes of misery, poverty, and unemployment. Mr. President, by protecting your country’s good name and creditworthiness, by avoiding simplistic solutions and quick fixes, by unleashing the economy, building forces of the marketplace, you are leading your country to a better tomorrow.

Your uncompromising faith in political freedom is consistent with your support of economic freedom. We applaud your efforts to bolster the democratic institutions of

**Proclamation 5942—National Day of Prayer, 1989**  
*March 17, 1989*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have been a prayerful people, giving thanks to our Creator for the blessings of liberty and seeking His help and guidance in preserving them.

Those who braved the long ocean journey from Europe to first settle in the American colonies were men and women of varied, but equally devout, religious beliefs. Many had been persecuted for those beliefs at home, and they sought a new land where they might be able to worship freely. Years later, our forefathers would clearly remember this and begin our Bill of Rights with the guarantee that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

But it was not just the experience of their ancestors that led the Founding Fathers to shape a free and democratic government for our Nation. On the contrary, their view of the rights of man and the proper role of government were derived from their firm faith in God. They believed that all men are created equal, "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." Any system of government they established must guarantee individual liberty and equality before the law, for freedom is the God-given right of all men. Calling for daily prayer at the Constitutional Convention, a number of delegates expressed their conviction that only with divine guidance would the new democracy be true and successful. "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice," observed Benjamin Franklin, "is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?" Dr. Franklin knew that human wisdom alone could neither build nor keep a free and just government.

As our first President, George Washington would continue to pray for guidance from "that powerful Friend" invoked by Ben Franklin. "I shall take my present leave," said the new President, "but not without resorting once more to that benign Parent of the Human Race in humble sup-

plication that . . . His blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations and the wise measures on which the success of this government must depend." Immediately after his Inauguration, President Washington made his way with the Congress through the crowds of well-wishers from Federal Hall to Saint Paul's chapel. There a prayer service was offered by the Chaplain of Congress for our new Nation.

The great faith that led our Nation's Founding Fathers to pursue this bold experiment in self-government has sustained us in uncertain and perilous times; it has given us strength and inspiration to this very day. Like them, we do well to recall our "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence," to give thanks for the freedom and prosperity this Nation enjoys, and to pray for continued help and guidance from our wise and loving Creator. For what President Washington wrote 200 years ago remains true today: "the liberty enjoyed by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights."

Since the approval of the joint resolution of the Congress on April 17, 1952, calling for the designation of a specific day to be set aside each year as a National Day of Prayer, recognition of such a day has become a cherished annual event. Each President since then has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer annually under the authority of that resolution, continuing a tradition that actually dates back to the Continental Congress, which issued the first official proclamation for a National Day of Prayer on July 12, 1775. By Public Law 100-307, the first Thursday in May of each year has been set aside as a National Day of Prayer.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 4, 1989, as a National Day of Prayer. I invite the people of this great Nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity in the hearts of all mankind.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of March, in

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 4, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
DURING BREAKFAST FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The Residence

8:45 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. and Mrs. Bright and reverend clergy, and members of the National Day of Prayer Committee, distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and ladies and gentlemen, you know, it's often said of a group or individual that he hasn't got a prayer. (Laughter.) Well, those of us interested in sports keep hearing that all of the time. But I'm delighted to address an audience about which that will never be said.

And first, I want to say what a pleasure it is to welcome you on this special day. America's religious, civic, political leaders welcome you to this very special place, America's house. We come as friends, as believers in a humane and loving God, and we meet on a special day for America -- a National Day of Prayer.

You know, a little boy once uttered this simple prayer: "God bless mother and daddy, my brother and sister, and, oh, God, do take care of yourself because if anything happens to you, we're all sunk." (Laughter.) Well, I expect this George Healy portrait of Lincoln gets to the margins of that prayer, and I expect he felt that way -- perilous times for our country. And I'm sure all of us have shared those sentiments at one time or another -- something in our own lives, something facing our country.

Certainly the Continental Congress did, for it was they who in 1775 issued the first official proclamation of a National Day of Prayer. In 1952, Congress decreed that a specific date be set aside each year for Americans to gather in homes and places of worship in order to pray. And since then, every president has declared a National Day of Prayer. And so this morning, like my predecessors, I am proud to continue that tradition.

But I am pleased to note that today marks a departure from the norm, for 1989 marks the first year of an official permanent date of designation -- from now on, the first Thursday of every May.

My friends, I'm glad that together we could commemorate this event, and just for a few moments let me focus on what to me, and I hope to you, this observance means.

It does mean, I'm sure we would all agree, that we believe in separation of church and state, but not in the separation of morality or moral values and state. While the government must remain neutral towards particular religions, it must not -- certainly it need not -- remain neutral toward values that Americans support. And, yes, we believe in pluralism, and I just want to reassure you I believe in pluralism -- certainly in mutual tolerance, for we are one nation under God. And we were placed here on Earth to do His work. And our work has gone on now for more than 200 years in the nation -- a work best embodied in four simple words, in God we trust.

And it was to that higher being that George Washington looked when in 1776 he was addressing his troops, and he said, "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army.

Lincoln believed in divine providence. Leaving

MORE

Springfield to take over, to assume the presidency, he told the people of his home town that the God which helped General Washington must now help him. "Without the assistance of the divine being," Lincoln said, "I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail."

And some of you may be too young to remember how -- remember D-Day. Not many of you, but some of you may be too young. (Laughter.) Over a nationwide network, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for the safety and success of our invading force. "Our sons," he said, "pride of our nation, lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

Our history tells us what our hearts confirm -- as Americans we are a religious people. We prize compassion and self-sacrifice. We know that America is great because America is good. And, as President, I am reminded of that constantly. Several weeks ago I was sharing this with Mrs. Bright and Mr. Zeoli. Barbara and I went up to -- or did you go to Lancaster, Pa.? She didn't make the traveling squad. (Laughter.) I went to Pennsylvania, and I went to a local high school in a relatively affluent rural area, Lancaster, and there we discussed a problem which is America's problem -- the rising use of drugs. If you ever need to pray about something and ask for strength and guidance, it is this, that we succeed in our anti-narcotics efforts. But then, after meeting with this relatively affluent group and hearing that drugs were in their corridors and in their playgrounds, I went a few miles over -- just the same community -- to meet with the Amish and Mennonite leaders. And wonderful people and kind, living their own lives, and they don't have a drug problem. And they made very clear to me why -- family and faith. Against them, drugs don't have a chance.

And I am convinced that faith and family can help us honor God in a most profound and personal way daily as human beings by the conduct of our lives. They teach us not only to revere but to practice the golden rule, and they also help us reflect the internal values of decency, humility, kindness and caring.

I thought of those values last Sunday when I was in New York to mark the 200th anniversary of George Washington's first inaugural address, for it was then that, like Washington two centuries ago, Barbara and I prayed at St. Paul's Chapel there where in 1789 a prayer service was offered by the chaplains of Congress for the United States of America. To me that day -- some of you may have seen it -- was moving, intimate, but there was something special about that church service 200 years ago. This Washington realized that political values without moral values, without that moral underpinning, cannot sustain a nation.

And so this strong yet gentle man knew that the advancement of America, while it might rely on its president, would surely depend on providence. And so what Washington believed so strongly over 200 years ago -- it really is just as true today. For without God's help, we can do nothing, and with it, we can do great things -- for our children, for the world.

So let me just thank you all for coming. Barbara and I are delighted to have you here. We will do our best in the people's house to hold these values high that are shared by everybody here regardless of our denomination, regardless of our own personal commitments. We welcome you, we are pleased you're here, and if you have an extra minute for a prayer when the going gets a little tough, remember the Congress. They need it, too. (Laughter.) And Barbara and I know we do, too.

Thank you all very, very much. Thank you for coming.  
(Applause.)