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National Day of Prayer 5/2/91 [OA 8322]

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RECEPTION, NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER \ THE EAST ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991 \ 7:30 A.M.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU ALL HERE, FOR A MOMENT
OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION.

WE'VE GONE THROUGH A GREAT DEAL TOGETHER, THESE
LAST FEW MONTHS -- AS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS -- AND AS
AMERICANS.

WE'VE STRUGGLED IN A LAND FAR AWAY, FOR THE SAKE OF
PRINCIPLES NEAR TO HEART -- AND WE'VE PREVAILED FOR
PEACE.

- 2 -

WHILE THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES SEEM TO CHANGE SHAPE
ALMOST DAILY, OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES REMAIN CONSTANT.
OUR PRINCIPLES ENDURE.

THAT'S WHY THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BEARS
SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE, IN THIS THE 200TH YEAR OF OUR
BILL OF RIGHTS.

WE ARE -- AS EVER -- "ONE NATION UNDER GOD."

NO NATION BETTER RECONCILES DIVERSITY OF FAITH WITH
UNITY OF PURPOSE.

OF ALL THE SOURCES OF THIS NATION'S STRENGTH -- ITS LOVE OF FAMILY, ITS COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM -- NONE IS MORE ENDURING OR INSPIRING THAN OUR FAITH IN GOD.

IN WAR AND IN PEACE, FAITH PROVIDES OUR SOLACE AND OUR STRENGTH, OUR SHIELD AND OUR SHELTER. FAITH'S LIGHT LEADS US FORWARD -- BRINGING STRENGTH IN CHALLENGE, GRACE IN ADVERSITY, SOLACE IN HARDSHIP, HUMILITY IN ACHIEVEMENT.

ABOVE ALL, FAITH GIVES US REASON TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE WONDERS OF THIS WORLD -- THE MANY GIFTS AND GRACES BESTOWED TO US BY GOD.

TODAY AND ALWAYS, LET US PRAY FOR GOD'S CONTINUED GUIDANCE: THAT HIS GRACE WILL SUSTAIN US -- AS IT HAS THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES -- IN THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, YOUR LOVE, AND YOUR PRAYERS.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: TONY SNOW *TS*
FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday, May 2, 1991, which is designated as the National Day of Prayer, you will host a 7:30 a.m. breakfast reception in the East Room for about 150 religious leaders, members of Congress, and the Cabinet. Your remarks (3 minutes, on cards) will be after a mix-and-mingle. The event is closed press.

(Lange/Simon)
April 25, 1991
11:30 A.M.
[PRAYER.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RECEPTION, NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THE EAST ROOM -- CLOSED PRESS
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991
7:30 A.M.

It's wonderful to have you all here, for a moment of fellowship and reflection.

We've gone through a great deal together, these last few months -- as colleagues and friends -- and as Americans.

We've struggled in a land far away, for the sake of principles near to heart -- and we've prevailed for peace.

While the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

That's why this year's National Day of Prayer bears special significance, in this the 200th year of our Bill of Rights.

We are -- as ever -- "one nation under God."

No nation better reconciles diversity of faith with unity of purpose. Of all the sources of this nation's strength -- its love of family, its commitment to freedom -- none is more enduring or inspiring than our faith in God.

In war and in peace, faith provides our solace and our strength, our shield and our shelter. Faith's light leads us forward -- bringing strength in challenge, grace in adversity, solace in hardship, humility in achievement.

Above all, faith gives us reason to pause and reflect on the wonders of this world -- the many gifts and graces bestowed to us by God.

Today and always, let us pray for God's continued guidance: that His grace will sustain us -- as it has throughout our lives -- in the challenges ahead.

Thank you all for your leadership, your love, and your prayers.

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(Lange/Simon)
April 25, 1991
11:30 A.M.
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Staffed

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We've gone through a great deal together, these last few months -- as colleagues and friends -- and as Americans.

We've struggled in a land far away, for the sake of principles near to heart.

In spite of a tyrant's will to wage war, we have prevailed for the sake of peace.

And while the world's challenges seem to change shape almost daily, our fundamental values remain constant. Our principles endure.

That's why this year's National Day of Prayer bears special significance, in this the 200th year of our Bill of Rights.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 25, 1991

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1991

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

While we owe constant praise to Almighty God, we Americans have added cause for thanksgiving on this National Day of Prayer because of the recent coalition victory in the Persian Gulf. However, our joy and gratitude are inspired by far more than military triumph; on this special day of prayer held in the 200th year of our Bill of Rights, we give thanks for America's long and abiding legacy of freedom.

During the past 200 years, the ideals enshrined in our Bill of Rights have gained favor around the world. Even where tyrants have sought to rule by repression and terror, the spirit of freedom has endured. This is because, as Alexander Hamilton once noted, "the Sacred Rights of Mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the Hand of the Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power." Almighty God has granted each of us free will and inscribed in our hearts the unalienable dignity and worth that come from being made in His image.

Because our dignity and freedom are gifts of our Creator, we have a duty to cherish them, always using the latter to choose life and goodness. On this occasion we do well to pray for the wisdom and the resolve to do just that.

As an elevation of the soul's eyes to Heaven, prayer helps us to distinguish between liberty and license -- to recognize that which is the grateful exercise of free will and that which is its corruption. Through prayer, we turn our hearts toward their real home and, in so doing, gain a sense of proper direction and higher purpose.

Faith and prayer are as important to guiding the conduct of nations as they are to individuals. We Americans, Abraham Lincoln once wrote, "have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven." A nation so richly blessed has equally great responsibilities. Indeed, we have recently been reminded that "much will be asked of those to whom much has been given." The crucible of war has once again tested our Nation's character, and it has shown us both the need for and the power of prayer.

On this National Day of Prayer, let us acknowledge with heartfelt remorse the many times we have failed to appreciate the Lord's gifts and to obey His Commandments. Giving humble thanks for His mercy, let us vow to fulfill not only our responsibilities but also our potential as one Nation under God. Most important, let us make our prayers pleasing to Him by the regular practice of public and private virtue and by a genuine renewal of America's moral heritage. As Scripture says, "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

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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 dates back to the Continental Congress. 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 2, 1991, as a National Day of Prayer. I urge all Americans to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for God's continued blessing on our families and our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

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