



Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in starting a prayer caucus in your legislature.

Congressman J. Randy Forbes, (VA), founding member of the Congressional Prayer Caucus recently quoted John Adams who said, "Statesmen may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand." John Kennedy said, "Religious freedom has no significance unless it is accompanied by conviction"...and it is those concepts that are at the heart of American history.

The increasing attacks on symbols of faith are more than just assaults on religious liberty; they are about removing faith, religion, and morality from the marketplace of ideas. If Adams was right, we are destroying the only thing that can secure our freedom. The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation is protecting and promoting religion, morality and faith in the marketplace of ideas as a means of securing the freedom that birthed America.

This informational packet contains information to assist you in forming a legislative prayer caucus which permits inclusion in The American Caucus Network - With the help of the CPCFoundation, the American Prayer Caucus Network is now an unprecedented, nationwide movement of praying legislators and citizens that is sweeping the nation to preserve America's spiritual heritage and protect individual religious liberty. Please join with us to secure God's enduring place in America's public square.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation at 757-546-2190, Lea@CPCFoundation.com.

Sincerely,

Lea Carawan
Executive Director
Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc.

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I. OVERVIEW

Statement of Purpose

Throughout the more than 200-year history of our nation, prayer has played a vital role in strengthening the fabric of our society. The purposes of Prayer Caucuses are to:

- 1) Unite legislators who would like to begin meeting and praying together, or who are already meeting and would like to take the initiative to the next level;
- 2) Form a national clearinghouse to collect, exchange, and disseminate information about prayer as a fundamental and enduring feature of American life;
- 3) Use the legislative process – both through sponsorship of affirmative legislation and through opposition to detrimental legislation – to assist the nation and its people in continuing to draw upon and benefit from this essential source of our strength and well-being.

Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc.

The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CPCFoundation) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization created to work alongside elected officials who are effectively spearheading a national movement to protect God’s enduring place in the public square.

CPCFoundation is committed to preserving our right to be a nation that trusts in God by mobilizing and unifying like-minded government leaders who believe in the power of prayer, and are willing to pro-actively defend and protect American religious liberty at the national, state and local levels.

CPCFoundation equips, resources, and provides infrastructure for prayer caucus members nationwide and provides a platform for elected officials to lead and equip a nation-wide network of praying citizens.

II. IMPACT OF PRAYER CAUCUSES

Congressional Prayer Caucus

The bi-partisan Congressional Prayer Caucus, formed in 2005 by Congressman J. Randy Forbes [R-VA] and Congressman Mike McIntyre [D-NC], is an official Caucus of the House of Representatives with 105 members. The Congressional Prayer Caucus was formed to pursue common legislative objectives as well as allow for quick and unified riposte to proposed legislation opposing religious liberties. It was formed to acknowledge the important role that prayer and Judeo-Christian principles play in American life and history, as well as to defend against the concerted effort to remove all vestige of God from the public square.

Legislative Prayer Caucuses have demonstrated their effectiveness in responding quickly to threats to religious freedom and in having successful outcomes. Congressional Prayer Caucus successes have included:

- **Blatant Omissions at the new Visitor Center at the U.S. Capitol** - The Architect of the Capitol planned to omit “In God We Trust” (our national motto), The Declaration of Independence, and the Pledge of Allegiance from the new Visitor Center because they mention God. Pressure from the Congressional Prayer Caucus resulted in the inclusion of the Declaration of Independence and the Pledge of Allegiance in the Visitor Center, and stones were actually pulled out of the wall of the building and inscribed with our national motto, “In God We Trust.”
- **Removal of Inscriptions at the Washington Monument** – A replica of the monument that describes the Latin inscription at the top of the monument (“Praise Be to God”) was placed against a wall by the Parks Services so that the description could not be read by visitors. Actions of the Congressional Prayer Caucus forced the Parks Services to move the replica so that the references to God could be seen.
- **Criminal Charges for Prayer at a School Booster Club Meeting in Florida** – The principal and athletic director of a public high school in Florida were indicted on criminal charges for leading a prayer before a meal at a private booster club meeting. They faced six months in jail, a \$5,000 fine and the loss of their pensions. The Congressional Prayer Caucus sent a letter signed by sixty members of Congress to the judge explaining the rights of these men. The case was dismissed.
- **H. Con. Res. 13** – In March, 2011, the House Judiciary Committee approved a resolution introduced by Rep. J. Randy Forbes, reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States and supporting and encouraging the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions.

State and Municipal Prayer Caucuses

State and Municipal Prayer Caucuses enable legislators to have the same or greater impact in their state and local governments. In addition to creating and supporting resolutions, state and local prayer caucus initiatives have included:

- **Missouri Legislative Prayer Caucus** - The Missouri Public Prayer Amendment, sponsored by State Prayer Caucus Chairman, Representative Mike McGhee, appeared on the August 7, 2012 primary election ballot as a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. According to the text of the measure, the amendment guarantees state residents the right to express religious beliefs and allows students in public schools to pray, and elected officials the right to acknowledge their religion voluntarily. After passing both the House and Senate in May, 2011, the Prayer Amendment was placed on the statewide ballot and passed by a landslide with 82.7% of voters in support. Supporters agree with critics that say the right to pray is already protected under the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; ***Amendment 2 is really an effort to make the state constitution match the U.S. Constitution, citing several examples of specific violations of religious liberty.***

- **Maine Legislative Prayer Caucus** – The Governor issued a proclamation naming August 6, 2011 "A Day of Prayer and Fasting for Our Nation" in Maine, joining the national initiative spearheaded by the Governor of Texas. Like previous proclamations, it might have gone largely unnoticed. However, the Maine Legislative Prayer Caucus energized the proclamation by urging Maine church leaders and citizens to participate in this important event by gathering in communities, houses of worship and homes to seek God's favor on our land. ***Pastors, business leaders, community leaders and families facilitated and promoted prayer gatherings on the urging of their elected leaders.***
- **Indianapolis City-County Prayer Caucus** – Under the leadership of the City-County Councilor, the Indianapolis City-County Prayer Caucus was the first municipal prayer caucus formed. As many as a dozen bi-partisan and multi-racial members gather before meetings for a brief time of fellowship, devotion and prayer as they prepare to address and decide many pressing matters concerning a large city that also serves as the capital of its state. ***This practice has resulted in remarkable unity and the resolution of issues that have been divisive in previous years.***

III. HOW TO ORGANIZE

Formation and Leadership

Prayer caucuses nationwide are forming a unified clearinghouse of national, state and local legislators committed to defending against the attacks on faith.

A legislative prayer caucus may be formed by a member of any legislative body at the state or local level. Forming a legislative prayer caucus facilitates clear and active communication on local, state and national religious liberty issues.

The formation of a legislative prayer caucus is governed by each individual state and municipality. Some require a formal process that includes a resolution; some are formed through a simple informal process. Please follow the requirements for your particular state or municipality.

Prayer Caucuses are usually formed by a chairman or co-chairmen. Preferably members of each party will participate to ensure a truly bi-partisan experience. The Congressional Prayer Caucus and nearly every state caucus have leadership represented by both parties.

Step-by-Step Organization Plan

There are four basic steps to launching a legislative prayer caucus and becoming a part of the nationwide American Prayer Caucus Network:

1. Form a legislative prayer caucus following the guidelines and procedures in your particular legislative body.
2. Commit to pray as a group on a regular basis.
3. Connect to the American Prayer Caucus Network, a nationwide online communication system for legislative prayer caucuses at the national, state and local levels.

4. As a legislative prayer caucus, take a stand as a front-line defender of religious liberty and the right of Americans to trust in God.

IV. ACTIVITIES / EVENTS OF PRAYER CAUCUSES

Prayer Caucus Fundamentals

In a legislative prayer caucus, the members are united by their commitment to prayer and the preservation of the Judeo-Christian values that formed America.

Much of the legislation affecting freedom of religion begins in individual states, with each state having the liberty to establish laws to protect access to the marketplace of ideas. With the establishment of a state prayer caucus, when issues affecting religious freedom arise, legislators can move quickly and effectively to protect the right of Americans to publicly pray and express faith in God.

Meeting times for legislative prayer caucuses range from a regular weekly meeting to “as-needed” meetings. Legislative prayer caucuses at the state and local level are free to set their own meeting parameters. Legislators meet to pray for guidance on current issues as well as to discuss and create ways to protect our Judeo-Christian nation and religious freedom.

The suggested requirements for a prayer caucus include:

- Regular meeting for prayer with caucus members or with elected officials through another regularly scheduled venue.
- Openness to bi-partisan involvement.
- Members committed to creating and supporting legislation that protects America’s Judeo-Christian heritage and individual religious liberty.

The American Prayer Caucus Network (APCN)

The formation of a legislative prayer caucus grants inclusion in the The American Prayer Caucus Network, the national network of prayer caucuses that unites like-minded policy makers across the nation for the purpose of defending the right of Americans to trust in God. There is great interest in forming prayer caucuses in many states and municipalities. TAPCN provides a robust communication network and clearinghouse of ideas for legislators.

Call To Prayer Proclamation

The Call To Prayer Proclamation is a document being used by prayer caucuses to declare the commitment of Americans to turn to God in prayer. Many state and municipal prayer caucuses are using the Congressional Call To Prayer proclamation made by members of Congress in 2007 as a pattern for their own Call To Prayer proclamations.

Launch Event – Public

The formation of a prayer caucus can be launched with a public event. The event size and scope is determined by each prayer caucus. A launch event may be as simple as a press conference or

a virtual awareness campaign done through email and news media; to a full-scale public ceremony where citizens can join with their elected leaders to support the formation of the legislative prayer caucus and sign a Call to Prayer proclamation. CPCFoundation is positioned to provide the resources and infrastructure to facilitate launch events.

Room 219 Prayer Groups

Praying citizens in every state across America have committed to praying for this nation, their elected leaders, and for issues pertaining to faith and freedom. CPCFoundation currently has nearly 6,000 Room 219 prayer groups and individuals praying nationwide. Prayer group leaders receive resources including weekly prayer emails, and other relevant information to assist them in effective prayer for members of the prayer caucuses and issues impacting religious liberty across the nation.

National Campaign: “In God We Trust – Put It Up!”

In November, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (396-9) to reaffirm “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States; and strongly encouraged its overt display in our schools and public buildings. Inspired by this landslide vote, the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation has launched a national campaign, “In God We Trust – Put It Up!”, as part of a proactive strategy that is supported by national and state lawmakers to protect God’s enduring and rightful place in America. We are encouraging citizens to proudly display our national motto in the public square. View the text of H. Res. 13 or learn more on our website at www.InGodWeTrustMotto.us.

Town Hall Meetings

Prayer Caucus members are having tremendous impact connecting with the faith community where town hall meeting are being held for citizens eager to preserve the Judeo-Christian heritage of our country. CPCFoundation is streamlining the communication process between legislators and citizens for easy coordination of such events.

Events with Pastors and Christian Leaders

The truth about the founding principles and values of our nation has been eroded and corrupted. Pastors are being targeted with deception and pressure to relinquish their crucial role of impacting American culture. CPCFoundation is positioned to help facilitate meetings and events to encourage and equip pastors and Christian leaders to stand with their elected leaders, to decry the lies and restore the foundation of biblical principles on which our freedom rests.

Partnering with other Organizations and Churches

Partnering with like-minded organizations, churches, and champions in each state is an essential element of the grassroots movement that is associated with the network of prayer caucuses. The goal of the CPCFoundation and State Directors is to help facilitate the unity and

mobilization of networks of individuals ready to pray and take action alongside members of the state prayer caucuses.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT & RESOURCES

The CPCFoundation has a multi-faceted strategy to support this historic movement spearheaded by national, state and local elected leaders; and impact the spiritual landscape of America. For more information go to www.CPCFoundation.com

National Support and Resources

Due to limited time and resources of elected officials, the CPCFoundation is prepared to provide the resources and infrastructure needed to support state and municipal prayer caucuses. In addition to facilitating the formation and launch events associated with prayer caucuses support includes:

State Charters – State charter agreements are in place with each state so that state and municipal prayer caucuses have localized support. Each state organization is committed to creating and sustaining a grassroots effort to support the state and municipal prayer caucus.

PrayUSA.com – Currently in development, this will be the largest prayer community networking members of the prayer caucuses with like-minded praying citizens. It will be the go-to site for groups and individuals who are taking up the mantle of prayer for our nation and our elected leaders, where we will be able to mobilize a prayer army whenever a need arises. Each state prayer caucus will have an individualized webpage that will be used to promote prayer caucus events, communicate with prayer caucus networks, alert citizens of issues and resolutions, etc.

TheFaithReport.com – A Drudge-style website providing an immediate resource for the numerous attacks on religious liberty across the nation.

Additional Resources:

IllumiNATION Newsletter – A clearinghouse for breaking news, educational tools and resources, and inspiring updates relevant to this national movement.

The Weekly Prayer Update –The Weekly Prayer Update provides thousands of praying citizens with the latest developments across the nation affecting their right to pray and trust in God. It provides a means for united prayer and points of action.

Prayer Alerts – The ability for legislators to send urgent prayer points to citizens for quick and immediate prayer.

State Support and Resources

State Director – In each state, charters are created so that state and municipal prayer caucuses have localized support. Each charter has a designated State Director who works alongside

members of the prayer caucus and mobilizes a network of churches, prayer channels and citizens who will pray and take action.

State Prayer Caucus Grassroots Network – State Directors facilitate the mobilization of a grassroots support system organized to establish a sustainable prayer and support network for state and municipal prayer caucuses. The Prayer Caucus Network will work alongside prayer caucus members as they spearhead calls to prayer, partner with churches and para-church organizations, and ultimately preserve faith in God as the lifeblood of America.

State Speakers 'Bureau' – Citizens across the nation want to hear from their elected leaders about how to get involved or provide support. This provides an opportunity for legislators to speak and network with the faith community across the states and nation on behalf of the CPC Foundation.

VI. FAQs

Are the Congressional Prayer Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CPCFoundation) one in the same?

No. The Congressional Prayer Caucus is an entirely separate entity from the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation. The Congressional Prayer Caucus is an official Congressional Member Organization of the U.S. House of Representatives. A Congressional Member Organization is a group of Members of Congress formed in order to pursue common legislative objectives and are registered with the Committee on House Administration.

Is the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation supported by taxpayer funds?

No. The Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that receives no taxpayer funds. All contributions are tax-deductible. No proceeds or resources of CPCFoundation are used in support of the congressional or political activities of any elected official.

When was this movement started?

In 2005, Congressman Randy Forbes of Virginia began unifying other Congressional Members and leaders to stand against this national threat to the religious liberties of Americans, believing that through trust in God, prayer, and strategic action we can preserve and protect our rights. To that end, Congressman Forbes obtained a strategic room in the Capitol, Room 219, in which Congressional Members could convene before every session to pray for our country. This room is a place where members of Congress meet weekly to seek the face and hand of God for Divine wisdom and intervention in our government affairs.

These Members later formed the Congressional Prayer Caucus – an official caucus of the U.S. Congress – to formally acknowledge the important role that faith in God and prayer plays in American life and history and to stand as a sentinel to guard the right of individuals in America to publicly pray and express faith in God.

Who are the members of Congress that belong to the Congressional Prayer Caucus?

There are currently 105 Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus. Go to www.house.gov/forbes/prayer/prayermembers.htm to see a current list of members.

How do I handle media exposure that might happen as a result of this activity?

An appropriate way to respond to media is to defer to legislative leadership in each prayer caucus. The Prayer Caucus Chairman or Co-Chairman can use the legislative prayer caucus Statement of Purpose as a basis for answers regarding the prayer caucus.

How do I get my prayer caucus listed on PrayUSA.com?

Currently state prayer caucuses are listed on PrayUSA.com. Each state page will soon have a section where local prayer caucuses will be listed. The next revision of PrayUSA.com will include municipal prayer caucuses pages similar to the state prayer caucus pages.

Who do I contact if I need more information?

Feel free to contact the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation with any questions. 757-546-2190, PO Box 15095, Chesapeake, VA 23328, www.CPCFoundation.com, Help@CPCFoundation.com.

Congressional Prayer Caucus questions can be directed to Amy Vitale, Legislative Assistant, Office of Congressman J. Randy Forbes, 202) 225-6365.

Questions about the state grassroots efforts can be directed to the State Director in your state. State Director information can be found at PrayUSA.com on individual state pages.

VII. EXHIBITS

The following documents are provided to be used as resources or templates:

1. **Congressional Call To Prayer Proclamation** – In 2007, Virginia Congressman J. Randy Forbes and over 30 other Members of Congress from 19 states held a bi-partisan press conference on the West Steps of the U.S. Capitol to call America back to prayer. The ceremony included the signing of this Call to Prayer Proclamation.
2. **Sample Call To Prayer Proclamation** - Virginia Call to Prayer Proclamation, patterned after the Congressional Prayer Caucus Call to Prayer.
3. **Sample Formation Resolution** - Mississippi Prayer Caucus SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 669 – Mississippi used this resolution to file for a formal formation of a prayer caucus.
4. **Sample Press Release** – North Carolina used this press release to alert the press of the launch event announcing the formation of the North Carolina Legislative Prayer Caucus.

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR AMERICA

*T*HROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE, AND GUIDANCE FROM PRAYER. FROM THE VERY FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS THROUGH EVERY FORM OF ADVERSITY AND BLESSING, AMERICANS HAVE FALLEN TO THEIR KNEES AND IMPORED GOD ALMIGHTY TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES AND TO HEAL THEIR LAND.

THE FREEDOM UPON WHICH AMERICA IS FOUNDED AFFORDS THE RIGHT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL TO DECLINE TO PRAY IF HE OR SHE SO DESIRES. HOWEVER, THAT SAME FREEDOM ALLOWS THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO UTILIZE THAT GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN OUR NATION.

THAT FREEDOM IS NOT DIMINISHED MERELY BECAUSE ONE IS ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THE CLOAK OF AUTHORITY PLACED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF A PUBLIC SERVANT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO USE THAT GREAT POWER TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN THE NATION THEY LOVE AND SERVE.

CENTURIES AGO, THE BIBLE RECORDS IN 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 THAT GOD TOLD KING SOLOMON:

"If my people who are called by my Name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN MEETING IN ROOM 219 OF THE U.S. CAPITOL TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION. THE LOCATION WAS NOT IMPORTANT, NOR WERE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GATHERED THERE TO PRAY. THE GRAVITY OF THEIR MEETING WAS DERIVED FROM THE HUMBLE SINCERITY OF THEIR BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL AMERICA.

SOON THEREAFTER, THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS IN AMERICA TO PRAY. THEIR VISION FOR THE CAUCUS INSPIRED THEM TO FORM THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS FOUNDATION, INC. WHICH IS A NON-PARTISAN, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE CALL OF AMERICA BACK TO PRAYER.

AS OTHER AMERICANS LEARNED ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN ROOM 219, THEY BEGAN TO JOIN THE MEMBERS IN PRAYER. ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CHURCHES AND FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES UNITED WITH THEIR LEADERS TO FORM LOCAL 219 GROUPS. INDIVIDUALS MADE PERSONAL COMMITMENTS TO PRAY FOR DESIGNATED FIVE-MINUTE INCREMENTS WHICH SERVED AS THE FOUNDATIONAL SPIRITUAL BRICKS TO ENSURE ROUND-THE-CLOCK PRAYER FOR THE NATION. AS THE NUMBERS GREW, THESE SPIRITUAL BRICKS BEGAN TO FORM A WALL OF PRAYER AROUND AMERICA.

AS THIS RESPONSE CONTINUES, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO OUR NATION. WE REALIZE THE NEED TO CALL AMERICA BACK TO PRAYER, NOT FOR A SINGLE DAY OR A SINGLE MONTH, BUT TO PRAY "WITHOUT CEASING." ACCORDINGLY, THIS DAY WE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY ISSUE THIS "CALL TO PRAYER FOR AMERICA" AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US BY BECOMING A 219 PRAYER MEMBER OR BY FORMING A 219 GROUP IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR WITH YOUR FAMILY. ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS FOUNDATION, INC., WE ASK YOU TO PETITION GOD FOR THE CONTINUED BLESSING OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH IT STANDS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND FOR STANDING WITH US. IT IS OUR SINCERE BELIEF THAT GOD WILL HEAR THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE AND HEAL THIS LAND. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY HE CONTINUE TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*W*TNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AS OF THE 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2005.

<i>Randy Forbes</i>	<i>Jeff Davis</i>	<i>Strom Thurmond</i>
<i>John A. Boehner</i>	<i>Jeff Miller</i>	<i>Jim Ryan</i>
<i>Robin L. Hayes</i>	<i>John Conaway</i>	<i>Tom Coburn</i>
<i>John David</i>	<i>Randy Neugebauer</i>	<i>Robert B. Aderhold</i>
<i>Barbara Culkin</i>	<i>Marilyn Musgrave</i>	<i>John Boozman</i>
<i>Katherine Harris</i>	<i>Mike McIntyre</i>	<i>Keyes Beechey</i>
<i>Joseph R. Pitts</i>	<i>Stacy Perry</i>	<i>Walter B. Jones</i>
	<i>Tom Davis</i>	

This document was signed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and over 40 members of the Virginia General Assembly.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH PRAYER CAUCUS

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR VIRGINIA

*T*HROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE AND GUIDANCE FROM PRAYER. FROM THE VERY FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS THROUGH EVERY FORM OF ADVERSITY AND BLESSING, AMERICANS HAVE FALLEN TO THEIR KNEES AND IMploRED GOD ALMIGHTY TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES AND TO HEAL THEIR LAND.

THE FREEDOM UPON WHICH AMERICA IS FOUNDED AFFORDS THE RIGHT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL TO DECLINE TO PRAY IF HE OR SHE SO DESIRES. HOWEVER, THAT SAME FREEDOM ALLOWS THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO UTILIZE THAT GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN OUR NATION.

THAT FREEDOM IS NOT DIMINISHED MERELY BECAUSE ONE IS ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THE CLOAK OF AUTHORITY PLACED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF A PUBLIC SERVANT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO USE THAT GREAT POWER TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN THE NATION THEY LOVE AND SERVE.

CENTURIES AGO, THE BIBLE RECORDS IN 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 THAT GOD TOLD KING SOLOMON:

"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, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

ALMOST 237 YEARS AGO WHEN OUR NATION FACED ENORMOUS CHALLENGES THAT AT TIMES SEEMED OVERWHELMING, RICHARD HENRY LEE, PATRICK HENRY, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND A CAUCUS OF MEMBERS FROM THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES WROTE, PRESENTED, AND PASSED A RESOLUTION ON MAY 24, 1774, SETTING APART THE FIRST DAY OF JUNE 1774 AS A DAY OF "FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER." BECAUSE OF THE RESOLUTION, GOVERNOR DUNMORE DISSOLVED THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES ON MAY 26, 1774, CAUSING THE MEMBERS TO PASS ANOTHER RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND HELPING TO BIRTH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN MEETING IN ROOM 219 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION. THE GRAVITY OF THIS MEETING WAS DERIVED FROM THE HUMBLE SINCERITY OF THEIR BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SOON THEREAFTER, THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS IN AMERICA TO PRAY. THEIR VISION FOR THE CAUCUS INSPIRED THE FORMATION OF SIMILAR CAUCUSES AROUND THE NATION.

AS THIS RESPONSE CONTINUES, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO OUR NATION. ACCORDINGLY, THIS DAY WE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY ISSUE THIS "CALL TO PRAYER" FOR VIRGINIA AND INVITE VIRGINIANS EVERYWHERE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS COUNTRY AND THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH IT STANDS, AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

W

ITNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES AS OF THE 6TH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2011.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 669

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION.

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, its citizens and inhabitants have drawn strength, hope and guidance from prayer. From the very first Continental Congress through every form of adversity and blessing, Americans have fallen to their knees and implored God Almighty to protect their family and to heal their land; and

WHEREAS, the freedom upon which America is founded affords the right to any individual to decline to pray if he or she desires. However, that same freedom allows those who believe in the power of prayer to utilize that great opportunity to ask God to bless and sustain our nation; and

WHEREAS, that freedom is not diminished merely because one is elected to public office. Quite the contrary, the cloak of authority placed upon the shoulders of a public servant should be an inspiration for those who believe in the power of prayer to use that great power to ask God to bless and sustain the nation they love and serve; and

WHEREAS, in early 2005, a small group of members of the United States House of Representatives began meeting in Room 219 of the United States Capitol to pray for our nation. The intent of this meeting was derived from the humble sincerity of their belief that God could heal the United States of America. Soon thereafter, these members formed the Congressional Prayer Caucus, which is a nonpartisan caucus with the purpose of seeking God's wisdom, direction and blessing for our country; and

WHEREAS, in order to encourage, train and support legislative leaders in every field who believe in the power of prayer, and to highlight the vital role that prayer and Judeo-Christian principles have played in the history of our nation and our state in strengthening the fabric of our society, at all times consistent with the progress of our state and with the well-being of our fellow Mississippians:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN,

That the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi on behalf of the Mississippi Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on behalf of the members of the House, jointly, are authorized to establish and organize a Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus, under the following conditions:

(1) The purpose of the Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus is to offer legislators a regular opportunity to join fellow legislators in humbly asking for God's wisdom and blessing on our country and the State of Mississippi.

(2) Any member of the Mississippi Senate or Mississippi House of Representatives may become a member of the Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus on a voluntary nonpartisan basis. Membership application shall be made in writing and a member may resign. There shall be no membership fee.

(3) There shall be a Chairman of the Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus, which shall alternate between the Senate and House on an annual basis. The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint the first Chairman who

shall serve until the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session, at which time the Speaker shall appoint the second Chairman. The Caucus shall meet upon the call of the Chairman.

(4) To the extent practicable, the meetings and business affairs of the Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus shall be held in the New Capitol Building in Jackson, Mississippi, but alternate locations may be designated by the Chairman.

(5) The Mississippi Legislative Prayer Caucus is authorized to coordinate its programs and meetings with programs and meetings of the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the Congressional Prayer Caucus and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LEGISLATORS TO HOST ‘CALL TO PRAYER’ DAY AT STATE CAPITOL

Citizens from around North Carolina will gather at the State Capitol on Monday, June 20, 2011, 5:00 – 6:00 pm at the invitation of the newly-formed bi-partisan North Carolina Legislative Prayer Caucus for 'North Carolina Call to Prayer Day' and the signing of the official 'Call to Prayer' Proclamation.

Organized and sponsored by elected leaders, North Carolina Call to Prayer Day will affirm the commitment of the members of the North Carolina Legislative Prayer Caucus to preserve the Judeo-Christian heritage of our nation and to protect the religious liberty of North Carolina citizens and all Americans.

Speakers at the event will include Congressman Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, Congressman J. Randy Forbes of Virginia, Lieutenant Governor Walter H. Dalton (tentative), Justice Paul M. Newby, and Commissioner Cherie K. Berry.

Citizens will be invited to sign the 'Call to Prayer' Proclamation along with their elected leaders.

The North Carolina Legislative Prayer Caucus is one of many official prayer caucuses being formed in state legislatures around the country. It is modeled after the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bi-partisan group of 78 U.S. Representatives who are dedicated to protecting religious liberty and recognizing our nation's spiritual history.