

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

<i>Robert McCall</i>	<i>Ally</i>	<i>Branda Poze</i>
<i>Hull - Bill</i>	<i>John A. Congrove</i>	<i>Ralph S. Sudd</i>
<i>Ken C.</i>	<i>Harry D. Levine</i>	<i>Barbara Jean Comstock</i>
<i>Chiff</i>	<i>Joseph P. Johnson, Jr</i>	<i>Lupe E. Zorian</i>
<i>R. David Hanch</i>	<i>David Morgan</i>	<i>Thomas A. "Tag" Graves</i>
<i>Nyan D. Reddy</i>	<i>Timothy D. Higo</i>	<i>Terry S. Keger</i>
<i>Ben Clure</i>	<i>Scott Garrett MD</i>	<i>William H. Crawford</i>
<i>Shirley Duff</i>	<i>Wally Wilson</i>	<i>Jan A. Cox</i>
<i>Nathan A. Storch</i>	<i>Richard T. Rice</i>	<i>Kyle Ingram</i>
<i>Roxan L. Robinson</i>	<i>M. Hubbard Key</i>	<i>Bob Marshall</i>
<i>James P. Thomas III</i>	<i>Shirley C. [unclear]</i>	<i>Dr. Helmut</i>
<i>Barry D. Knight</i>	<i>Edward T. [unclear]</i>	<i>John S. [unclear]</i>
<i>Wanda W. Moninger</i>	<i>Frank [unclear]</i>	<i>Tony [unclear]</i>
<i>Day W. McCall</i>	<i>Ronald [unclear]</i>	<i>Robert B. Bell</i>
		<i>Steven [unclear]</i>