

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR MAINE

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE, AND GUIDANCE BY PRAYER AND HUMBLE PETITION BEFORE A LOVING AND MERCIFUL CREATOR—IMPLORING HIM TO WATCH OVER THIS NATION, ITS LEADERS, AND HER PEOPLE.

THE FAITH-BASED PRINCIPLES THAT ESTABLISHED AMERICA, INCLUDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND ITS EXPRESSION. THE MORAL AND SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE, DRAWS MANY SERVANTS WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER—TO SEEK HUMILITY IN GOVERNANCE, WISDOM IN DECISION-MAKING, COURAGE IN TIMES OF TESTING, AND PROVIDENCE FOR GOD'S FAVOR AND BLESSING.

ON MAY 24, 1774, WHEN FACING ENORMOUS CHALLENGES, CAUCUS MEMBERS FROM THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSSES PASSED A RESOLUTION SETTING APART A DAY OF "FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER." IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP FROM THE U.S. 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 AND SINCERE BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL AND RESTORE AMERICA. SOON THEREAFTER, THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH OVER AND PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PRAY.

WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CROSSROAD: EITHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE THE VIBRANT CHARACTER OF OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OR TO PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO THE POSTMODERN VOID—A VALUE-NEUTRAL AND AMORAL VACUUM THAT ENDEAVORS TO DECONSTRUCT MUCH OF WHAT WE HOLD SACRED.

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."

WITH CLEAR VISION AND THE RECENT RE-AFFIRMATION OF "IN GOD WE TRUST" AS OUR NATIONAL MOTTO, IT BECOMES MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO MAINERS. AS SUCH, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PREAMBLE OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION WHICH HUMBLY ASSERTS, "WE THE PEOPLE OF MAINE, IN ORDER TO...SECURE TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY, ACKNOWLEDGING WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS THE GOODNESS OF THE SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE UNIVERSE IN AFFORDING US AN OPPORTUNITY, SO FAVORABLE TO THE DESIGN; AND, IMPLORING GOD'S AID AND DIRECTION IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT..."

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WITNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES AS OF THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2012.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Governor Paul LePage | Peter Edgemoor |
| John Scott, Atty. Gen | James Condit |
| Kevin L. Ray, Senate President | Joyce Fitzpatrick |
| Robert W. Vitting, House Speaker | Jay A. McKee |
| David C. Brewer | Robert E. Clark |
| Dee Craft | Paul Newenighe |
| James W. Dan | Tommy Spome Mello |
| Jeffrey Timb | K. Ryan |
| Amy F. Volk | Christy |
| D. Vukobratovic | Stephen P. Handley |
| Stacey Durieux | Matthew W. Chase |
| Beth P. Luper | Pete Johnson |
| Allen Esplong | Karen A. Foster |
| | John Courtney |
| | Edward L. Hyatt |

MAINE LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS

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Handwritten signatures of caucus members, including Paul & Carol L., Jeff Clark, Daniel D. Johnson, Gary C. Ounphy, Adam Elmer, Jeff Hibbard, Rick O'Leary, Wendie, Michael Thibodeau, Doug Thomas, Phil Crab, Michael Little, Steve, Keith W., Cynda D., Ray Wallace, Sayer Plummer, John L. Patrick, Kimberly L., Jean Nass, J.J., Wendell Weaver, Jared L. Knapp, Peter B. Rony, Dennis T. Kesell, Deborah Anderson, James M. Hays, John W. Sarty Jr., Richard M. Cebra, James A. Hilling, Edward Madalben, Peppie Bennett, Beth A. Oram, and Bradley & Monty.

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Susan H. Wasserdahl
Gene Ford
Leonard Earl Bennett
Katrin P. Teel
Maria Willette