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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

RBW 6/8/2011

File Folder NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (2 OF 4)

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 14

POTTER, CLAIRE

18

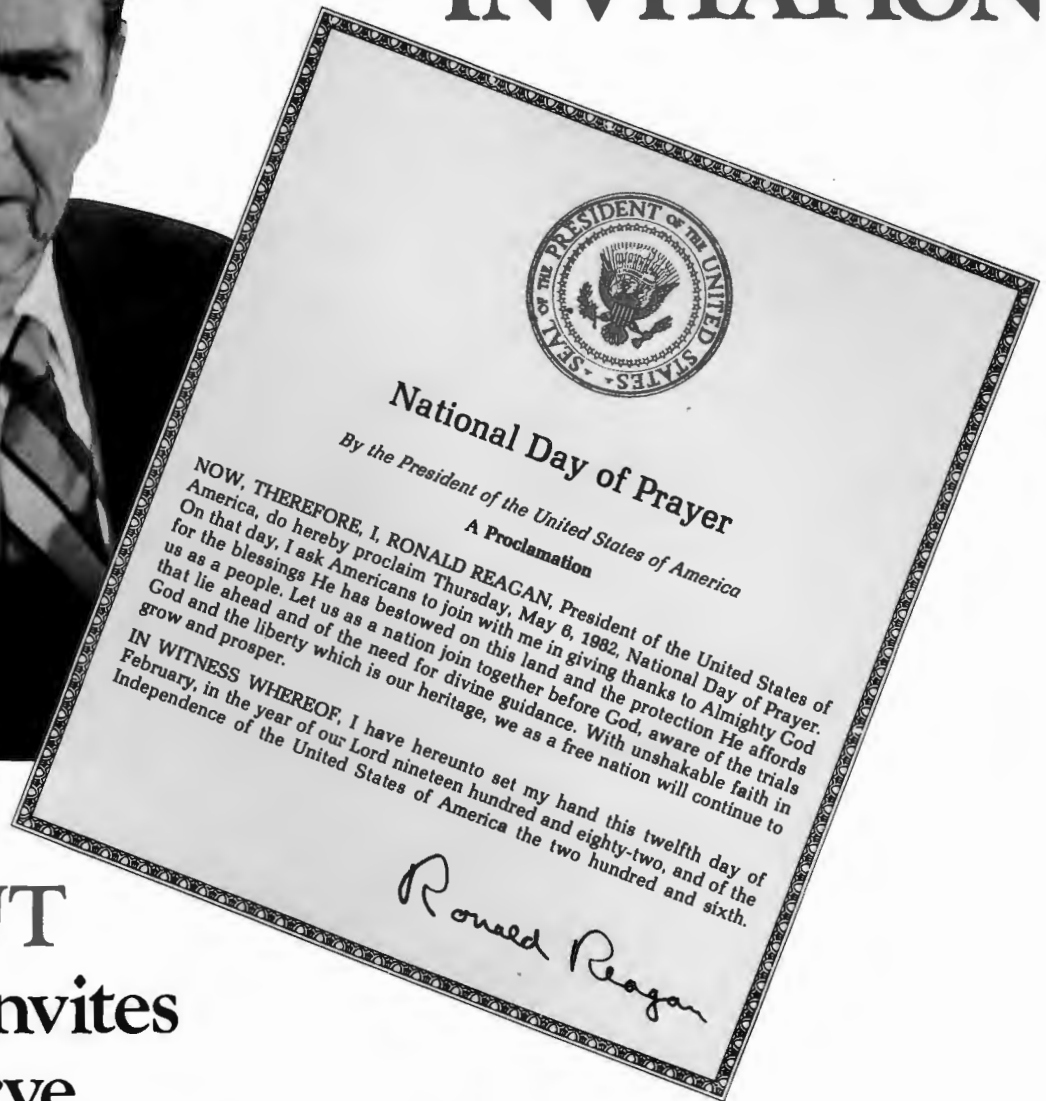
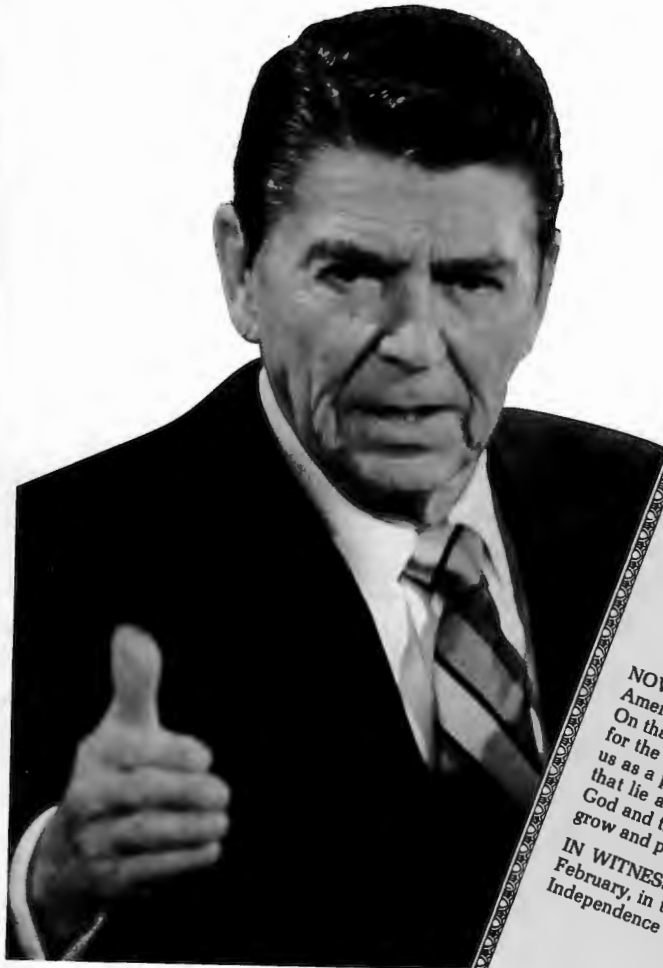
DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	FORM	RE. REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS	1	2/11/1982	B6
2	NOTE	RE. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CEREMONY ATTENDEES	1	ND	B6
3	NOTE	RE. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CEREMONY ATTENDEES	1	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

YOUR INVITATION



PRESIDENT REAGAN invites you to observe NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 6, 1982, Washington, D.C. (All faiths participating)
St. Johns Church, 1 pm • Constitution Hall, 7:30 p.m.
... and in your local communities nationwide

Please return attached REPLY FORM to:
Rev. Claude G. Pike, Coordinator
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Box 50444 F St. Sta., Washington, D.C. 20004
(Western Office) Box 203, Oregon City, Ore. 97045
Ph. (503) 631-3206

non-profit org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oregon City, OR
Permit no. 65



WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY PROCLAIMS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Rev. Claude G. Pike, Coordinator

President Reagan recently met with twenty national religious leaders of all faiths at the White House to proclaim the first Thursday in May as National Day of Prayer. The President commissioned the group to "assist" him in encouraging public observance of this sacred traditional day. He especially requested all Americans to pray for himself, that God's wisdom might be given to him for his solemn responsibilities.

The President is our nation's Commander in Chief. As such, we are obligated and privileged to comply with his sincere and humble request.

Following the President's ceremony, therefore, a number of leaders met for several hours to consider how they might best urge all citizens to revive this ancient tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress as a day of fasting and prayer on a Thursday in 1775.

It was agreed at the above meeting that all twenty who were present at the President's ceremony should be considered a National Committee to Observe the Day of Prayer. They felt that both a national convocation in Washington, D.C. and observance in local communities everywhere should be encouraged as fast as word of the President's pro-

clamation could be spread.

This invitation therefore, is a personal request to you, not only from the President of the United States but also from the National Committee, and the National Prayer Campaign. This organization was represented at the White House ceremony by Rev. Claude G. Pike and has been promoting the need for national fasting and prayer for many years. Background information on the efforts of this group, one of the sponsors of the President's ceremony, is contained on the inside of this folder.

While the President has asked us to assist him in promoting this day, he has left all such efforts entirely in the hands of each of us as volunteers. Therefore, it is necessary for the National Prayer Campaign to invite your financial assistance to make possible this important work.

May the blessing of God rest upon America, the President and our officials and citizens everywhere, as we humbly seek God's face in this crisis time. Let us rekindle the spiritual fires that caused America to shine with the light of God in the world. Let us unite on the first Thursday in May to observe America's National Day of Prayer!

IMPORTANT REPLY FORM

- I plan to bring others and observe the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C.
- While in Washington, I would like to participate in a National Committee meeting to promote the Day of Prayer.
- I cannot come to Washington but will join with others in my local community to observe this sacred day.

\$_____ enclosed as my contribution for the expense of the National Prayer Campaign.

My name and address is on the Prayer Petition to Congress (reverse side) urging all of our officials everywhere to observe President Reagan's National Day of Prayer.

ask Presidential
messager about
this request 2941

The White House
Washington

WHA042(1750)(1-021634A041)PD 02/10/82 1752
ICS IPMWGWC WSH
09001 02-10 0515P EST
PMS WHITE HOUSE DC
4-041579S041 02/10/82

1982 FEB 10 PM 5 53

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP
2147423141 TDBN DALLAS TX 42 02-10 0430P EST
PMS MORTON BLACKWELL SPECIAL ASST TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
RPT DLY MGM, DLR, DLR
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20505

PRESIDENT FORD AT SIGNING CEREMONY IN 1974 INAUGURATED THE
"PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION" OF PRAYER PROCLAMATIONS AND GAVE HIS SIGNED
DRAFT TO THIS COLLECTION. RESPECTFULLY REQUEST PRESIDENT REAGAN'S
SIGNED DRAFT BE GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION, THE ONLY SUCH
EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION IN AMERICA.

GRATEFULLY
NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION, PETER STEWART PRESIDENT
1625 I DALLAS CENTER
DALLAS TX 75201

1718 EST
NNNN

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1981 - 356-697

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1981 - 356-697

Charlotte, North Carolina 28279



704-554-6080

February 25, 1982

Kathy Christianson, Confidential Assistant
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Kathy:

Thanks again for all your help in securing permission
for us to tape on the lawn of the White House.

Everything was as you said it would be. We had a very
smooth arrival and taping period.

Again, thank you very much. If we can ever be of any
help in the future, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Flessing
Executive Vice President

RLF:jb

**THANKS
■ GIVING
SQUARE**

March 1, 1982

*Natly Day of Prayer
Done*

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

Dear Morton,

Appreciate so much your many courtesies that resulted in such a favorable signing ceremony for the National Day of Prayer.

We discussed in your office the fifteen copies of the "ceremonial copies" of the National Day of Prayer so that we can send them to various influential religious leaders to gain an even wider acceptance for the National Day of Prayer next year.

It would be helpful to know what leaders have received these ceremonial copies from you so that we will not duplicate.

For our "Presidential Collection" that was established by President Ford of proclamations since the Continental Congress, we would like to request the following:

*3/4
he also called
us today
about this -
there have
been tapes
care of -
should we
try for this*

The original signed draft of the Proclamation from the signing ceremony itself

One 8 x 10 black and white glossy print of each of the black and white negatives taken

One color picture at least 5 x 7 of each of the color pictures taken

The cost of the videotape that we originally requested as a historical record.

Any expenses of the foregoing please let us know so that we can send a check.

Thanks again to your associates, Mrs. Shortly and Mrs. Christianson.

We are working on preparations all over the country and will keep you informed.

Mr. Morton Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

Peter

Peter Stewart
President

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Ronald Reagan Library

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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (2 OF 4)

FOIA

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<i>DOC Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
<i>NO Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>
1 FORM	1	2/11/1982	B6
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2 NOTE

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B6

RE. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CEREMONY
ATTENDEES

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3 NOTE

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO: Mason

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Rev. Pike

OF (Organization)

503-631-3206

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. FTS

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Proclamation
ceremony -
he would like to be
invited
he is in Oregon + has
sent us a lot of info*

RECEIVED BY

K

DATE

TIME

63-109

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 341-529 (116)

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Call Red on Dept of Ed.

Alternatives

~~Arch Bishop~~

~~Thomas
Welsh~~

Neal Wilson

Seventh Day Adventist

~~Director of~~

Mr. James C. Dobson
Director, Focus on Family

Dr. J. Richard Chase
~~Hudson Amending~~
Wheaton College
President

new Pres

Mr. Charles Colson
Presidential Fellowship
President

Suede Anderson
Christian Embassy.

Rev. Arie Branner, Gen Sec.
Reformed Church in America

increasingly conservative

Bishop Thomas Welsh
- Diocese of Arlington -

Comm Ernest Holtz
The Salvation Army.

Mr Norman Vincent Peale.

Chaplain Richard P Camp Jr.
West Point Chaplain

- Chaplain Halverson -
Senate Chaplain.

James D Ford
U.S House of Reps
Chaplain

Doug Coe
Fellowship House
President

Hall
Prayer
Secretary

Sen Dickel
Ansetzung.

Aug. Dannenmeyer
Luzern

- Mark Fowler -

Mr. Tom McDill
Evangelical Free Church of America
President

Sen Hatfield

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1982

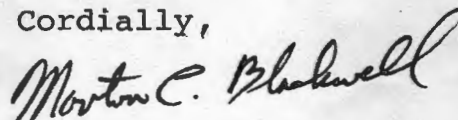
Dear Dr. Schaeffer:

Thanks for your letter concerning the National Day of Prayer. We had a fine observance of the day in the Rose Garden at which time the President announced his intention to send to Congress an amendment to the Constitution allowing voluntary prayer in schools. The legislation has now been introduced and we expect speedy passage.

Enclosed is a picture of the signing of the proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. I regret we do not have a photo which includes your participation in this event.

We are looking forward to hearing you the next time you are in Washington,

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer
Chalet le Chardonnet
1885 Chesieres
SWITZERLAND

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1982

To Loesje Edwards, Room 94

From Morton Blackwell, Room 191

Attached is a picture of the President at the time of the Proclamation of the National Day of Prayer. Dr. Francis Schaeffer in Switzerland would like to have it autographed to him. He was in the group.

Chalet le Chardonnet
1885 Chesières
Switzerland

April 17, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D.C.

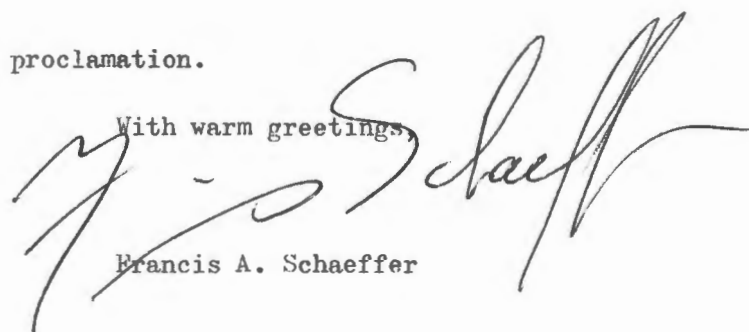
Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Thank you so much for the copy of the National Day of Prayer proclamation which you sent to me. I did enjoy having it. I hope that people will respond to this call for the Day of Prayer on May 6. Our country certainly needs it. I do pray a great deal for those in the White House at the present time who bear the brunt of the overwhelming confusion not only in our country but throughout the world. Even if one wishes to do well it must be confusing with all the tremendous pressures both internally and externally.

When President Reagan signed the proclamation there were pictures taken of the signing. I wonder if by any chance they are available. I would not want you to go to a lot of trouble but if they are I would be interested to see them.

Thank you again for sending along the proclamation.

With warm greetings,



Francis A. Schaeffer

FAS:gli

*Give book
to us & we
care of
Good*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - February 12, 1982 - Signing Ceremony
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

Bishop Homer Ellis Finger, Jr.
President of the Council of Bishops
United Methodist Church

Right Reverend John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

Mr. William P. Thompson, Stated Clerk
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

* Dr. Bailey E. Smith, President
Southern Baptist Convention

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, President
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Mr. Robert P. Dugan, Jr.
Director, Office of Public Affairs
National Association of Evangelicals

Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson, President
Christian Broadcasting Network

Mr. Jim Bakker, President
PTL Club

Elder David Haight
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints

Reverend Richard Hogue
Metro Church

Rabbi Seymour Siegel
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Bishop Thomas J. Welsh
Arlington Diocese

* ^{FATHER} Reverend Daniel F. Hoyer, General Secretary
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Reverend Raul Comesanas, Associate Pastor
St. Anthony's Parish

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PAGE 2 -- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Peter Stewart, President
National Thanksgiving Commission

Dr. St. George I.B. Crosse
St. Matthews United Methodist Church

Reverend Claude C. Pike, Coordinator
National Prayer Campaign

Reverend Vladimir Danylevich, Assistant Pastor
St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

Reverend Norris Sydnor, Jr., First Vice President
Baptist Convention of Maryland

Rabbi David Z. Ben-Ami, Chairman
American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation

THANKS
■ GIVING
SQUARE

February 5, 1982

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Attached are the nominees for the National Day of Prayer signing ceremony that we are coordinating with Chaplains Halverson and Ford.

An important world effect is possible here because our National Day of Prayer is understood by the five great world religions that are represented in America. The Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist representatives have been carefully chosen as highly respected in their own religions and in the national community.

The American Indian as well as the Latin and Black representatives have also been carefully selected.

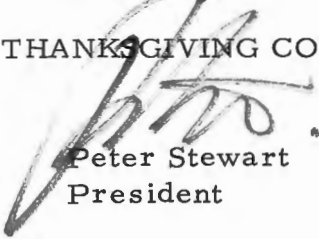
Those marked with an asterisk have been alerted as to a possible ceremony and can make themselves available on that day. The others are probably available, but not yet confirmed.

We are grateful for this wonderful celebration of America's oldest Presidential Proclamation - the National Day of Prayer. Attached is our letter to over 150 top religious leaders about this year's celebration.

Special videotape and still photographer we would appreciate earliest possible notice on so they can be available for historical and educational work.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION



Peter Stewart
President


Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500


cc: Dr. Richard Halverson; Dr. James D. Ford

Honorary President, Gerald R. Ford - Honorary Vice President, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
P.O. BOX 1777 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75221 • AREA CODE 214 651-1777

* Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger
President
Synagogue Council of America
432 Park Avenue, South
New York, New York 10016
212/686-8670 office
212/327-2403

* Princess Red Wing
Squaw Sachem of Pokonoket Wampanoag Nation and the Narraganset Tribe
Dovecrest
Exeter, Rhode Island 02822
401/539-9995

*  Father Daniel Hoyer
General Secretary
National Council of Catholic Bishops
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005
202/659-6767

 His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America
8-10 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021 212/570-3500

Bishop Roy C. Nicols
President Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
210 Boston Post Road
Rye, New York 10580
914/835-2700

Mrs. Aurora Garcia
Latin American lay leader - Diocese of Dallas
7223 Cortland
Dallas, Texas 75235
214/670-5919 office
214/357-3697 home

Dr. Hosny Gaber (muslim)
Islamic Center
#1 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10023
212/362-6800

* Professor Kana Mitra (Hindu)
Villanova University
Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085
215/527-2100

Saville R. Davis
President
Church of Christ, Scientist
Christian Science Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
617/262-2300

Dr. Albert C. Outler
Distinguished Methodist Theologian - SMU
6019 Lakehurst
Dallas, Texas 75230
214/361-7449

* Dr. Duke McCall
President
Baptist World Alliance
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
502/897-4011

* The Right Reverend John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017
212/867-8400

* Dr. Ven. H. Gunaratana (Buddhist)
Washington Buddhist Vihara
5017 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20011
202/723-0773

THANKS ■ GIVING SQUARE

January 12, 1982

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

National Day of Prayer
May 6th Reconfirmed

Our newly re-emerging, though very ancient National Day of Prayer, is a real national "act of love" starting in 1775. Because of interest from many national organizations, we are glad to say that it has just been reconfirmed this year for the traditional "first Thursday in May", May 6, 1982.

Your advance planning may want to take special note of this important new date on the American religious scene. Restored last year by President Reagan to its historic Spring date as it was anciently observed by many colonies and by the Continental Congress throughout the Revolution, the National Day of Prayer was perceived by many national organizations as a natural expression of the American tradition of all faiths uniting in reverence for the Divine and respect between God's people everywhere.

These attached materials may help in announcements or events:

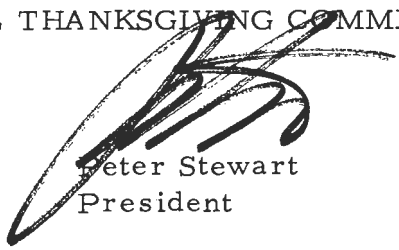
- (1) History of the National Day of Prayer, "With United Hearts";
- (2) An example of a Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Islamic committee planning a community celebration that all Americans can celebrate together.
- (3) Summary of History.

In 1981 organizations observed our common prayer day in many different ways: (1) Formal statement by national denomination; (2) Governors or Mayors event and proclamation; (3) Event in church, school, or service club; (4) Newsletter or publicity release.

Each of us can be a key to the revival of this ancient and sacred tradition, obscured for 150 years, now strongly re-emerging for us to enjoy in common. It will help others if you can send the attached card with your special ideas and needs.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION



Peter Stewart
President



AMERICANS OF FIVE GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS

Plan together for a National Day of Prayer on the traditional "first Thursday in May" as observed by the Continental Congress in reverence to the Divine Power.

From left to right; Reverend Tich Tri Hien, Buddhist; Mr. Madan Goyal, Hindu; Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Islamic; Mr. Carl Lee, Jewish; and Mrs. Aurora Garcia, Christian, met December 16, 1981 to prepare the May 6, 1982 celebration.

The Revolutionary pen and bell, instituted by President Gerald Ford, as Honorary President of the National Thanksgiving Commission, are a symbol of the unity of Americans in reverence and prayer.



The White House
Washington

WHB026(1601)(1-017485A039)PD 02/08/82 1602

1982 FEB 8 PM 4 09

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06511 02-08 0350P EST

PMS WHITE HOUSE DC

4-041178S039 02/08/82

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2147423141 TDBN DALLAS TX 78 02-08 0345P EST

PMS MR MORTON C BLACKWELL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
PUBLIC LIAISON RPT DLY MGM, DLR

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

GRATEFUL FOR PROCLAMATION. SUGGEST ADDING FOUR NATIONAL LEADERS:
MODERATOR, ROBERT DAVIDSON, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE USA. BISHOP
JAMES CRUMLEY, LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, ELDER EZRA TAFT BENSON, M
ORMON CHURCH, BISHOP CLINTON HOGGARD, AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
ZION CHURCH, FEDERAL EXPRESSING SUGGESTED INFORMATIONAL PACKET FOR

PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLAIN ALMOST UNKNOWN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TRADI
TION. ALSO, HOPING TO BE HELPFUL SENDING POSSIBLE TALKING POINTS FOR
PRESIDENT. COMMISSION HAPPY TO PROVIDE SUITABLE LUNCHEON FOR GUESTS
AFTER CEREMONY AT HAY-ADAMS. MANY THANKS

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION, PETER STEWART, PRESIDENT

1625 ONE DALLAS CENTER

DALLAS TX 75201

1552 EST

NNNN

JAN 27 1982

January 26, 1982

[Handwritten initials]

Dear Mrs. Armstrong:

Mr. Meese brought to my attention his acknowledgement of your letter of December 11, 1981, suggesting that the President have a formal signing ceremony for his Proclamation for a National Day of Prayer.

The President will be pleased to do this, and time has been set aside on his schedule for this ceremony on February 12, 1982, at 11:45. Mrs. Elizabeth Dole will contact you further about the details for this appointment.

With our very best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Anne Armstrong
The Armstrong Ranch
Armstrong, TX 78338

cc: Helen Donaldson w/incoming for Feb. 12 schedule
Info copies to: Mr. Meese, Michael Horowitz, OMB,
Mrs. Elizabeth Dole

GJN:MHR:vml--

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 3/30/81

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: RICHARD G. DARMAN

FYI: ()

Comment:

Could you please be sure that
Mr. Peter Stewart, 1625 One
Dallas Centre, Dallas, Texas
75201, gets a copy of the
ceremonial proclamation for
the National Day of Prayer.

Thanks.

*Please handle
Master 4-2
001/10/81*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: DICK DARMAN

FROM: MICHAEL K. DEAVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Information

Action

March 13, 1981

Mike

D. Dorman

Dear Anne:

Thank you for your letter of February 2nd. I appreciate your taking the time to write about the National Day of Prayer Proclamation, and have passed your message on to Mike Deaver for his attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

EDWIN MEESE III
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Anne Armstrong
Armstrong Ranch
Armstrong, TX 78338

EM:es:ms--

cc: Mike Deaver w/incmg
E. Meese

MRS. TOBIN ARMSTRONG

February 2, 1981

f-y
cc: M. Deaver

Mr. Edwin Meese
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ed:

On January 19th, Peter Stewart of Dallas wrote the President, asking for his support for a Presidential Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. Peter also sent letters to Senator Tower, Governor Clements and Congressman Collins.

Several years ago, Peter Stewart and other leading citizens of Dallas were successful in securing Presidential support for the National Day of Prayer. It was a successful and growing movement and, in fact, now has the support of several foreign nations; but President Carter discontinued the practice of issuing the Presidential Proclamation.

As Stewart noted in his letter to the President, the Proclamation should be issued around mid-March in order to allow time for churches, communities and schools to prepare for their local May 7th celebrations of the National Day of Prayer.

I hope very much that President Reagan will agree to reinstitute a tradition that I think has been uplifting to the nation and that would be very much in line with our President's thinking on the strengths of faith, freedom and community.

Peter Stewart is highly respected and can be relied upon for follow-through in whatever he pledges. He sent supporting information (the original Proclamation of 1781, a brochure, "with united hearts...", etc.), but if you have any further questions, he would be delighted if you would contact him at ~~1635~~ One Dallas Centre, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Sincerely,



Anne Armstrong

cc: Mr. Peter Stewart
Mr. James A. Baker

ARMSTRONG RANCH

ARMSTRONG, TEXAS 78338

2/9/82

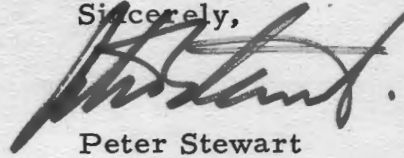
Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Note changes in red.

Arrangements made for videotape.

Hope you can join us at Hay Adams for lunch
after ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Stewart", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Peter Stewart

Rabbi David Saperstein
Ex. Director
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
1640 Rhode Island, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
202/232-4242 office

Princess Red Wing
Squaw Sachem of Pokonoket Wampanoag
Nation & the Narraganset Tribe
Dovecrest
Exeter, Rhode Island 02822
401/539-7795

Father Daniel Hoye
General Secretary
National Council of Catholic Bishops
1312 Massachusetts Ave. N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005
202/659-6767

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
in North & South America
8-10 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021
212/570-3500

Bishop Roy C. Nicols
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
210 Boston Post Road
Rye, New York 10580
914/835-2700

Mrs. Josefina Torres
4300 Vandelia
Dallas, Texas 75219
214/742-2753 - office
214/528-5733 - home

Dr. Hosny Gaber (Muslim)
Islamic Center
#1 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10023
212/362-6800

Professor Kana Mitra (Hindu)
Villanova University
Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085
215/645-4730 - office
215/242-4208

Dr. Duke McCall
President
Baptist World Alliance
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
502/897-4011

The Right Reverend John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017
212/867-8400

Dr. Ven. H. Gunaratana (Buddhist)
Washington Buddhist Vihara
5017 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20011
202/723-0773

Bishop James R. Crumley, Jr.
Lutheran Church in America
231 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
212/481-9600

Rev. Robert M. Davidson
Moderator
United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Westpark Presbyterian Church
165 West 86th Street
New York, New York
212/362-4890 - church

Elder Ezra Taft Benson
The Quorum of the Twelve
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801/531-2531

Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard
AME Zion Church
6401 Sunset Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
317/924-1207

Church of Christ, Scientist
Christian Science Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
617/262-2300

Dr. Albert C. Outler
Distinguished Methodist Theologian-SMU
6019 Lakehurst
Dallas, Texas 75230
214/361-7449

TELEGRAM

THANKS
GIVING
SQUARE

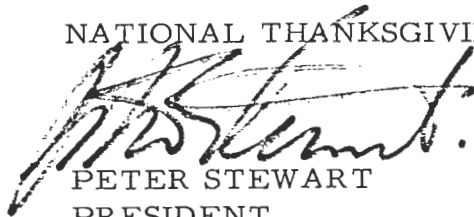
NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 9, 1982

MR. JOSEPH HOLMES
DIRECTOR
WHITE HOUSE TV, FILM, RADIO SERVICE
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20500

CONFIRMING REQUEST VIDEOTAPE OF PRESIDENT SIGNING
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 11:45
PER BARBARA WHEELER.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION



PETER STEWART
PRESIDENT
1625 ONE DALLAS CENTRE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

Gerald R. Ford, Honorary President
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Honorary Vice President

HISTORICAL MATERIAL FOR 1982

National Day of Prayer on May 6, 1982, the "first Thursday in May" as regularly observed during the Revolution.

America's first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed a year before the founding of our nation itself - as prayer frequently precedes great actions. While days of prayer were common with the native Americans and early colonists, and the First Continental Congress "opened the business with prayer" on its first day in 1774, yet this Proclamation to the people of all the colonies in June of 1775 declared the nation's dependence on God a year before our Declaration of Independence from a foreign power.

Consistently through the Revolution one or more National Days of Prayer were designated each year by the Continental Congress, but after James Madison the practice fell into disuse.

Not until the menacing shadow of Civil War cast its pall over the nation, was a Presidential Proclamation of Prayer issued again, asking God to avert the coming conflict. This was not to be, but several Prayer and Thanksgiving Proclamations were issued by President Lincoln during the Civil War.

Just 30 years ago in 1952, a Joint Resolution of Congress requested the President to issue a Prayer Proclamation each year and eight Presidents since then have annually recommended a Day of Prayer to the nation, resuming the traditional cycle started by the Continental Congress, of a Day of Prayer in the spring and a Day of Thanksgiving in the fall.

In 1981, President Reagan restored the historic "first Thursday in May" as the day for Americans to celebrate together the National Day of Prayer.

THANKS ■ GIVING SQUARE

January 12, 1982

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

National Day of Prayer
May 6th Reconfirmed

Our newly re-emerging, though very ancient National Day of Prayer, is a real national "act of love" starting in 1775. Because of interest from many national organizations, we are glad to say that it has just been reconfirmed this year for the traditional "first Thursday in May", May 6, 1982.

Your advance planning may want to take special note of this important new date on the American religious scene. Restored last year by President Reagan to its historic Spring date as it was anciently observed by many colonies and by the Continental Congress throughout the Revolution, the National Day of Prayer was perceived by many national organizations as a natural expression of the American tradition of all faiths uniting in reverence for the Divine and respect between God's people everywhere.

These attached materials may help in announcements or events:

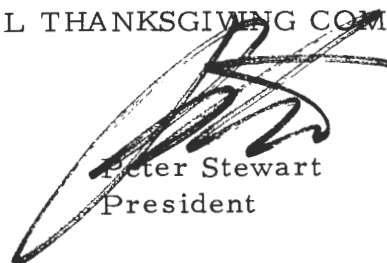
- (1) History of the National Day of Prayer, "With United Hearts";
- (2) An example of a Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Islamic committee planning a community celebration that all Americans can celebrate together.
- (3) Summary of History.

In 1981 organizations observed our common prayer day in many different ways: (1) Formal statement by national denomination; (2) Governors or Mayors event and proclamation; (3) Event in church, school, or service club; (4) Newsletter or publicity release.

Each of us can be a key to the revival of this ancient and sacred tradition, obscured for 150 years, now strongly re-emerging for us to enjoy in common. It will help others if you can send the attached card with your special ideas and needs.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION



Peter Stewart
President

National Day of Prayer
Signing Ceremony
February 12, 1982 11:45 a.m.

National Day of Prayer is oldest proclamation starting with Continental Congress (1775) a year before the Declaration of Independence, but abandoned for many years until Congress revived 30 years ago in 1952 asking the President to proclaim each year. However, only last year President Reagan designated the traditional "first Thursday in May" so national institutions can count on a regular day each year to celebrate.

TALKING POINTS

1. Americans of all the great world religions can agree on the need for prayer and celebrate this day together.
2. Conflict in the name of religion over the world can be moderated by the mutual respect between religions that this ancient American custom gives us.

Read special message:
"World Treasury
of Prayer and Thanksgiving"

3. We can set an example here that the world is crying for.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES

President with 5 Americans of 5 great world religions shows that people of reverence can celebrate together a National Day of Prayer. (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu representatives with President)

THANKS
■ GIVING
SQUARE

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Hoping to be helpful, I am sending:

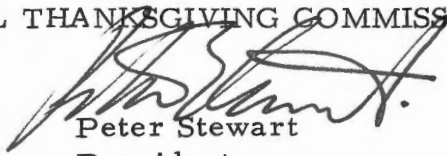
1. Suggested "Talking Points"
2. Suggested informational packet for participants since considerable explanation is necessary for the almost unknown National Day of Prayer tradition.

Large folio, "America Prays Together" of all American Prayer Proclamations can be made available. Arranging luncheon discussed for participants at Hay-Adams following ceremony which I understand we should arrange separately.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION



Peter Stewart
President

February 8, 1982

cc: Dr. James David Ford
Dr. Richard C. Halverson

Gerald R. Ford, Honorary President
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Honorary Vice President



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

January 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR *MH*
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1982

Enclosed is a proposed proclamation for the annual National Day of Prayer.

The draft proclamation was prepared in this office based on material furnished by the Chaplains of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Leaders of the various religious faiths are in agreement that the annual Day of Prayer should be observed on the first Thursday in May. They also urge that the proclamation be issued in February so as to permit wide distribution in religious publications.

Issuance of the proposed proclamation is based upon a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 17, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 185; 66 Stat. 64) which calls upon the President to set aside a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

COPY FOR MR. MORTON BLACKWELL - WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1982

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

America's first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed a year before the founding of our Nation itself. Prayer frequently precedes great actions.

Days of Prayer were common with the native Americans and early colonists, and the First Continental Congress "opened the business with prayer" on its first day in 1774. That Congress also issued the first proclamation of a Day of Prayer to the people of the colonies in June of 1775, declaring the Nation's dependence on God a year before our Declaration of Independence from a foreign power.

Consistently through the Revolution one or more National Days of Prayer were designated each year by the Continental Congress or the Congress of the United States, but after James Madison the practice fell into disuse. Not until the menacing threat of civil war cast its shadow over the Nation was a Presidential Proclamation of Prayer issued again, asking God to avert the coming conflict. This was not to be, but several Prayer and Thanksgiving Proclamations were issued by President Lincoln during the Civil War.

Just 30 years ago, a Joint Resolution of the Congress requested the President to "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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 6, 1982, 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 guidance. With unshakable faith in God and the liberty which is our heritage, we as a free Nation will surely survive and prosper.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of , in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN
ROOM 220, RUSSELL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 30, 1981

Mr. William M. Nichols
General Counsel
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building - Room 464
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your help in the 1981 National Day of Prayer restoring the historic "first Thursday in May" date which as a result gained so strongly in recognition and significance. The assurance of the date many months ahead of time was one of the chief reasons why the doubling of national visibility was possible.

In anticipation of 1982, several organizations desire the assurance of this same traditional "first Thursday in May" to be set for 1982 so it can be scheduled into national programs long range.

We would be grateful if Thursday, May 6 could be secured as the National Day of Prayer so these national bodies can go to work.

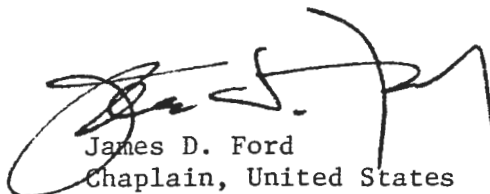
It would be very helpful if the Proclamation itself could be available about March 5, 1982.

Enclosed is historical information which may be of help for the 1982 National Day of Prayer Proclamation and its special significance.

Yours very truly,



Richard C. Halverson
Chaplain, United States Senate



James D. Ford
Chaplain, United States
House of Representatives

Enclosure

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is the end of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder: National Day of Prayer (2)-(4)
Box: 14

To see more digitized collections visit:

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