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THANKS ■ GIVING SQUARE

February 4, 1982

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Relative to the February 12 "signing ceremony":

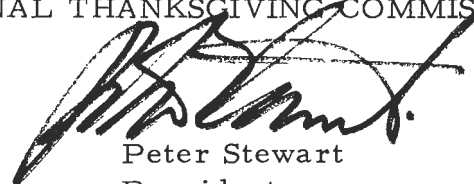
1. Representatives of major world religions are "on call" as soon as you give the word (in accord with Anne Armstrong's letter of December 11, 1981 to Ed Meese).
2. Videotape and stills would show schoolchildren history and multiply effectiveness of the President's time as was done in signing in 1974 and 1975. Thanks-Giving Square Foundation can make arrangement if you are agreeable.
3. Presidential message similar to draft attached can be even more effective than President Ford's message at signing in 1974.

Phone numbers are: office 214/742-3141 and home 214/361-6419 or 214/361-4938. Would welcome your call over the weekend, so we can give maximum time and courtesies to eminent guests.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING COMMISSION

cc: Dr. James D. Ford



Peter Stewart
President

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

PS: pc
att.

WH

December 11, 1981

copy 2

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

Dear Ed:

This letter is made possible by your help in establishing a date earlier this year for the National Day of Prayer. I wrote you on this subject on February 2, 1981.

A marvelous opportunity to show America's unity under God would be the "signing ceremony" of the Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer by the President in mid-February with a few top religious leaders of the great world faiths. A date set now for the signing would assure maximum effectiveness. ☆

75

Good will with many races and religions around the world resulted when this was last done by President Ford in 1977, standing with leaders of world religions in the Oval Office on the 200th Anniversary of the first National Day of Prayer in 1777 based on the attached material from the National Thanksgiving Commission which arranged to have the major religious leaders present. The Day is celebrated on the traditional "first Thursday in May".

1982 is especially important because just 30 years ago the ancient tradition was revived on an annual basis, although it's probably our oldest National Proclamation and antedates the Declaration of Independence by a year.

This ceremony would serve as a focus to unify people through prayer. This ancient American custom, in harmony with the great world religions, evidenced by Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Islamic leaders standing together with the President, reveals mankind's unity of spirit which gives hope for our country and for the world. ☆

I hope very much that the President will agree to a signing ceremony and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anne
Anne Armstrong

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James A. Baker III
Mr. Peter Stewart, National Thanksgiving Commission



WORLD TREASURY OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

All the peoples of the world share a heritage of prayer and thanksgiving which pre-dates recorded history. This reverence for Ultimate Reality and recognition of the Divine spark in every human being has known no boundaries. As inhabitants of what has been called the "New World", we in America have received this legacy from every portion of the globe. On that foundation all the cultures of the world live here together in mutual respect and fruitful peace.

The recognition of this heritage in America was started in this room in 1974 when President Gerald Ford inaugurated the "Presidential Collection" of our nation's prayer and thanksgiving proclamations. Compiled by Thanks-Giving Square Foundation, these documents were presented to President Ford by representatives of world religions on June 12, 1975, at the time of the 200th anniversary of our first National Day of Prayer.

This "Presidential Collection" of our own country is already a momentous first step in a world pattern that could bring together the great spiritual forces of the human race. George Washington envisioned such a sharing of spiritual riches between nations and cultures when he ended his 1795 Thanksgiving Proclamation praying that God "impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves to the whole family of mankind".

In that exalted spirit, and at the request of many religious leaders, it is now timely and fitting to inaugurate another collection, a "World Treasury of Prayer and Thanksgiving", for the purpose of gathering prayers and thanksgivings from all continents to be placed in an archive at the Center for World Thanksgiving.

We invite other world leaders to join together in this bold spiritual initiative that, in full respect for each tradition, recognizes with gratitude

the gift of life every human being has received. Each nation and tradition will then be able to share its sacred treasures in a universal spirit, with each receiving an ever increasing blessing.

Draft

PS: pc

February 4, 1982

December 11, 1981

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

Dear Ed:

This letter is made possible by your help in establishing a date earlier this year for the National Day of Prayer. I wrote you on this subject on February 2, 1981.

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I hope very much that the President will agree to a signing ceremony and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Anne Armstrong

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James A. Baker III
Mr. Peter Stewart, National Thanksgiving Commission





John Warner, then head of the Bicentennial; Monsignor Michael J. Sheehan, Secretary Catholic Conference of Bishops; Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Rauf, Director, The Islamic Center, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Josefina Torres, Mexican-American church leader; Rabbi Irwin M. Blank, President, Synagogue Council of America; Dr. Lawrence W. Bottoms, Moderator of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church in the U.S.; Bishop John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church and Reverend Robert Nelson West, President, Unitarian Universalist Association.

Office of the Chaplain
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 1, 1982

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

Attention: Ms. Maiselle Shirtley

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

As you may be aware, America's first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed a year before the founding of our nation.

This practice was continued for some time but eventually fell into disuse. In 1952 a Joint Resolution of Congress requested that the President issue a Prayer Proclamation and this practice has been followed by eight Presidents.

In 1981 President Reagan restored the historic "first Thursday in May" as a day to celebrate together the National Day of Prayer. With the encouragement and enthusiasm of Mr. Peter Stewart, President of the National Thanksgiving Commission, efforts have been made to make the pronouncement early enough so groups could be prepared to plan for such an event.

President Ford held a ceremony at the White House with leaders of world religions at which time he signed the proclamation. A similar White House signing ceremony, in advance of the 1982 proclamation, would help give focus to the importance of the event.

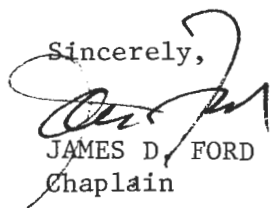
Mr. Stewart was helpful in organizing the White House ceremony in President Ford's time and he has suggestions for this year, including individuals who are representative of the several religions.

I am enclosing material for you which tells of the history of this event and a picture of the signing in 1975. There is no one with a better background concerning the history and purpose of this event than Mr. Stewart. I spoke with Peter this morning and he mentioned that he would be happy to come to Washington and meet with you to offer what assistance he could to help make this day the vital occasion it can be.

He can be reached at 214-651-1777, National Thanksgiving Commission, P.O. Box 1777, Dallas, Texas 75221. I have spoken in Dallas for the National Thanksgiving Commission at the lovely Chapel in the heart of the City, and I know of their dedication to the values this special day represents.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



JAMES D. FORD
Chaplain

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

1/28/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Signing Ceremony for National Day of Prayer Proclamation

DATE: February 12, 1982

TIME: 11:45 am

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: To be determined

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY

PARTICIPATION: ~~Optional~~ *yes - send briefing paper to Nina Wormser*

REMARKS REQUIRED

cc: A. Bakshian
M. Brandon
R. Darman
R. DeProspero
K. Duberstein
D. Fischer
C. Fuller
C. Gerrard
E. Hickey
E. Rollins
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
S. Studdert
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
R. Williamson
N. Wormser
A. Wrobleski

The Armstrong Ranch
(ESTABLISHED 1852)
Armstrong, Texas

APPROVED FOR

Date: 2/12/82
Time: 11:45
Length: 10 minutes
Date: 2/12/82 GJM

December 11, 1981

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

053670

Dear Ed:

This letter is made possible by your help in establishing a date earlier this year for the National Day of Prayer. I wrote you on this subject on February 2, 1981.

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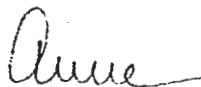
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I hope very much that the President will agree to a signing ceremony and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Anne Armstrong

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James A. Baker III
Mr. Peter Stewart, National Thanksgiving Commission

*Natl Day
of Prayer*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1982

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

DATE: February 12, 1982
LOCATION: Cabinet Room
TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EH*

I. PURPOSE

To sign a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 6, 1982 as a National Day of Prayer.

II. BACKGROUND

Thirty years ago, a Joint Resolution of Congress requested the President to set aside a suitable day each year as a National Day of Prayer. Eight Presidents since then have annually proclaimed a Day of Prayer to the nation, resuming a tradition started by the Continental Congress in June of 1775.

In 1981, you restored the historic "first Thursday in May" date, as observed by the Continental Congress, for the National Day of Prayer so religious groups could count on a regular day each year to celebrate. This day is a natural expression of the American tradition of all faiths uniting in prayer and asking for divine guidance.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Writing pool and photo coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 11:45 a.m. You arrive in Cabinet Room and shake hands with assembled religious leaders.
- 11:50 a.m. You make brief remarks.
- 11:55 a.m. Upon conclusion of your remarks, you sign the Proclamation with two pens which you will give to Dr. Smith and Father Hoyer.
- 12:00 p.m. You thank your guests and depart.

Attachment: Participants

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1982

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

DATE February 12, 1982
LOCATION Roosevelt Room
TIME 11:45 am

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

I. PURPOSE

To sign a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 6, 1982 as a National Day of Prayer.

II. BACKGROUND

Thirty years ago, a Joint Resolution of Congress requested the President to set aside a suitable day each year as a National Day of Prayer. Eight Presidents since then have annually proclaimed a Day of Prayer to the Nation, resuming a tradition started by the Continental Congress in June of 1775.

In 1981, you restored the historic "first Thursday in May" date, as observed by the Continental Congress, for the National Day of Prayer so religious groups could count on a regular day each year to celebrate. This day is a natural expression of the American tradition of all faiths uniting in prayer and asking for divine guidance.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Writing pool and photo coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:45 am- You arrive in Roosevelt Room and shake hands with assembled religious leaders.
11:50 am- You make remarks while seated at conference table.
11:55 am- You sign proclamation.
12:00 am- You depart.

ATTACHMENT: Participants
Talking Points

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAMATIONS

Bishop James Ault
Secretary of the Council
of Bishops
United Methodist Church
223 4th Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Reverend James R. Crumley, Jr.
President
Lutheran Church in America
231 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Right Reverend John Allin
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Ave.
New York, New York 10017

Mr. William P. Thompson
Stated Clerk
United Presbyterian Church in the USA
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1201
New York, New York 10115

Reverend J.C. Sams
President
National Baptist Convention of America
954 Kings Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Dr. Bailey E. Smith
President
Southern Baptist Convention
Box 15039

Del City, Oklahoma 73155

Dr. David W. Preus
President
American Lutheran Church
422 South Fifth St.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55415

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PAGE 2

Reverend J. H. Jackson
President
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
405 East 31st St.
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann
President
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
500 N. Broadway
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dr. Thomas F. Zimmerman
General Superintendent
Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dr. Billy Melvin
Executive Director
National Association of Evangelicals
P.O. Box 28
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson, President
Christian Broadcasting Network
CBN Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23463

Dr. James R. Robison
President, James Robison
Evangelistic Association
P.O. Box 18489
Fort Worth, Texas 76118

Mr. Jim Bakker
President
PTL Club
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Dr. Billy Graham
President, Billy Graham
Evangelistic Association
1300 Harmon Place
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Mr. Oral Roberts
President, Oral Roberts University
7777 S. Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74171

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PAGE 3

Dr. E. V. Hill
Pastor
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
1300 East 50th St.
Los Angeles, California 90011

Mr. Spencer Kimball
President
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
50 East North Temple St.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Reverend Richard Hogue
Metro Church
P.O. Box 1147
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

Rabbi Seymour Siegel
The Jewish Theological Seminary
of America
3080 Broadway
New York, New York 10027

Bishop Thomas Welsh
Arlington Diocese
Chancery Office
200 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia

Reverend Richard Halverson
Chaplain, United States Senate
220 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Reverend James D. Ford
Chaplain, United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Reverend Daniel Hoye
General Secretary
National Council of Catholic Bishops
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in
North and South America
8-10 East 79th St.
New York, New York 10021

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PAGE 4

Reverend Raul Comesanas
St. Anthony's Parish
615 8th St.
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Mr. Peter Stewart
President
National Thanksgiving Commission
Thanksgiving Square
P.O. Box 1777
Dallas, Texas 75221

Dr. St. George I.B. Crosse
St. Matthews United Methodist Church
3509 Kings Point Road
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

Reverend Claude C. Pike
Coordinator
National Prayer Campaign
Box 203
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Reverend Vladimir Danielvich

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

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

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

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

c ✓ Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, President
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

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

c ✓ Mr. Jim Bakker, President
PTL Club

f r Elder David Haight
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints

c ✓ Reverend Richard Hogue
Metro Church

c ✓ Rabbi Seymour Siegel
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

- Bishop Thomas J. Welsh
Arlington Diocese

c ✓* FATHER
Reverend Daniel F. Hoyer, General Secretary
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PAGE 2 -- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

f ✓ Mr. Peter Stewart, President
National Thanksgiving Commission

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

Reverend Claude C. Pike, Coordinator
National Prayer Campaign

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

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

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 12, 1982

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

National prayer is deeply rooted in our American heritage. From the earliest days of our Republic, Americans have asked God to hear their prayers in times of sorrow and crisis and in times of bounty.

The first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed in 1775 by the Second Continental Congress. As thousands gathered in prayer in places of worship and encampments throughout the new land, the dispersed colonists found a new spirit of unity and resolve in this remarkable expression of public faith. For the first time, Americans of every religious persuasion prayed as one, asking for divine guidance in their quest for liberty and justice. Ever since, Americans have shared a special sense of destiny as a nation dedicated under God to the cause of liberty for all men.

Through the storms of Revolution, Civil War, and the great World Wars, as well as during times of disillusionment and disarray, the nation has turned to God in prayer for deliverance. We thank Him for answering our call, for, surely, He has. As a nation, we have been richly blessed with His love and generosity.

Just 30 years ago, a Joint Resolution of the Congress requested the President to proclaim a 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 in places of worship, in groups, and as individuals. Eight Presidents since then have annually proclaimed a Day of Prayer to the nation, resuming the tradition started by the Continental Congress.

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 Americans 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, aware of the trials that lie ahead and of the need for divine guidance. With unshakable faith in God and the liberty which is our heritage, we as a free nation will continue to grow and prosper.

nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 12, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

THRU: DIANA LOZANO
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL
SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
PROCLAMATION

Several of the major religious leaders who attended the Presidential signing of the proclamation for the National Day of Prayer surely left disappointed.

Immediately prior to our bringing in the leaders for the Cabinet Room signing ceremony, Red told me that the "Big Three" had decided that the religious leaders would have to be across the table from the President rather than stand behind him.

This resulted in two problems:

1. It was impossible to shoot photographs which included the entire group with the President. When the photographers shot diagonally across the table, they got the President in the photo with only some of the visiting leaders.
2. Our proposal included a Presidential handshake with each of the religious leaders. The last-minute change in the physical arrangement prohibited this. The President only shook hands with two, the Catholic and Southern Baptist leaders who received the two ceremonial pens.

The President's remarks were fine. He spoke out in favor of voluntary school prayer and expressed his belief in intercessory prayer.

Only twenty two people, it was not a big crowd. It included very major leaders, most of whom are strongly supportive of the President.

If this had been a group of union bosses or black civil rights leaders, I have no doubt that the President would have been allowed to shake the hands of each person present.


Our failure to schedule the long hoped for pro-family coalition meeting last year has caused many of the President's religious friends to believe that someone in the White House regards conservative religious leaders as not vital elements of his coalition or somehow unclean. The ceremony this morning did nothing to dispell that impression.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1982

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

DATE: February 12, 1982
LOCATION: Cabinet Room
TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

I. PURPOSE

To sign a proclamation declaring Thursday, May 6, 1982 as a National Day of Prayer.

II. BACKGROUND

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In 1981, you restored the historic "first Thursday in May" date, as observed by the Continental Congress, for the National Day of Prayer so religious groups could count on a regular day each year to celebrate. This day is a natural expression of the American tradition of all faiths uniting in prayer and asking for divine guidance.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Writing pool and photo coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:45 a.m. You arrive in Cabinet Room and shake hands with assembled religious leaders.

11:50 a.m. You make brief remarks.

11:55 a.m. Upon conclusion of your remarks, you sign the Proclamation with two pens which you will give to Dr. Smith and Father Hoye.

12:00 p.m. You thank your guests and depart.

Attachment: Participants

**NEWS
RELEASE**

**MAY 5, 1983
NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

Co-chairmen:
Mrs. Bill Bright
Chairman,
National Prayer Committee
The Hon. Herbert E. Ellingwood
Chairman, U.S. Merit
Systems Protection Board

National Day of Prayer



1 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 314, Arlington, VA 22201 (703) 522-0800

**CONTACT: As above, or
Stewart McLaurin
714/ 882-9932**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 1--Plans are under way for nationwide activities in connection with the National Day of Prayer on May 5, it was announced today.

President Reagan formally proclaimed that day, the first Thursday of May, as the thirty-first consecutive National Day of Prayer since Congress acted by joint resolution in 1952 to instruct the nation's Chief Executive to set aside one day each year for such a national observance.

Specific activities in connection with the National Day of Prayer are, however, arranged and coordinated by private groups, churches, and individuals independently of Congress or the President.

This year, a national committee composed mainly of representatives of major denominational and non-denominational prayer ministries is calling for a variety of nationwide activities including:

- coordinated proclamations at the state and local levels by governors and mayors as counterparts to the Presidential proclamation of the National Day of Prayer;

--the ringing of church bells at noon on May 5, followed by five minutes of united prayer ("Take five at 12") by all Americans wherever they may be;

--a variety of state-level and local-level prayer-related activities appropriate to each state and local situation, coordinated by committees at those levels;

--a gathering in Constitution Hall on the evening of May 5 for a time of prayer for the nation.

"Prayer is a way in which all Americans can truly make a significant contribution to our nation at a moment in history when we desperately need God's intervention," said Vonette Bright, co-chairman with Herbert E. Ellingwood of the National Day of Prayer Committee. Ellingwood is chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

"We are praying that millions of Americans will begin now to help mobilize the entire country for a day of concentrated thanksgiving and intercession to God on May 5," Mrs. Bright added.

Assistance in the planning process has come from the members of the National Prayer Committee, whose members include: Mrs. Bright, chairman, and founder, Great Commission Prayer Crusade; David Bryant, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship; Mrs. Harold Christenson, United Prayer Ministries; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dawson, Youth With a Mission; the Rev. Dick Eastman, Change the World Ministries;

Also Dr. Norval Hadley, World Vision International; Dr. Ben Jennings, Great Commission Prayer Crusade; Mr. Wyatt Lipscomb, Support for Action; the Rev. Moultrie McIntosh, Anglican Prayer Fellowship; Commissioner John Needham, The Salvation Army; and the Rev. Glenn Sheppard, Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Prayer is the mainspring of the American spirit, a fundamental tenet of our people since before the Republic was founded. A year before the Declaration of Independence in 1775, the Continental Congress proclaimed the first National Day of Prayer as the initial positive action they asked of every colonist.

Two hundred years ago in 1783, the Treaty of Paris officially ended the long, weary Revolutionary War during which a National Day of Prayer had been proclaimed every spring for eight years. When peace came the National Day of Prayer was forgotten. For almost half a century, as the Nation grew in power and wealth, we put aside this deepest expression of American belief—our national dependence on the Providence of God.

It took the tragedy of the Civil War to restore a National Day of Prayer. As Abraham Lincoln said, "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

Revived as an annual observance by Congress in 1952, the National Day of Prayer has become a great unifying force for our citizens who come from all the great religions of the world. Prayer unites people. This common expression of reverence heals and brings us together as a Nation and we pray it may one day bring renewed respect for God to all the peoples of the world.

From General Washington's struggle at Valley Forge to the present, this Nation has fervently sought and received divine guidance as it pursued the course of history. This occasion provides our Nation with an opportunity to further recognize the source of our blessings, and to seek His help for the challenges we face today and in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5, 1983 National Day of Prayer. I call upon every citizen of this great Nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of the hearts of all mankind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN

A Proclamation

From the President For a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer 1863

Whereas, The Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and Just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation:

And Whereas, It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, Inasmuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart THURSDAY, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

By his excellency



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

President of the United States of America

Copies to EHD
Red
Diana Lozano
Morton Blackwell

Charlotte/Martha
Event File

*Natl Day of
Prayer
Feb 12, 1982*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

1/28/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Signing Ceremony for National Day of Prayer Proclamation

DATE: February 12, 1982

TIME: 11:45 am

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: To be determined

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: Optional

REMARKS REQUIRED

cc: A. Bakshian
M. Brandon
R. Darman
R. DeProspero
K. Duberstein
D. Fischer
C. Fuller
C. Gerrard
E. Hickey
E. Rollins
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
S. Studdert
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
R. Williamson
N. Wormser
A. Wrobleski

RELIGIOUS GROUPS:

March 13 ✓

Mormon - President

April 28, 1981 ~~X~~

- Voluntarism briefing, Presidential Task Force

July 13 ✓

- Washington area religious leaders - briefing by OMB and OPD

Sept. 15

- WH lawn reception for Adm. supporters

Sept. 22 ~~X~~

- G.L.U.S.A. Briefing - voluntarism

Oct, 6

- AWACS briefing by NSC and State

Dec. 18

- Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, meeting with President

**

Feb. 4, 1982 ✓

- Dr. Robert Schuller, Crystal Cathedral, meeting with President

Feb. 9 ✓

- National Religious Broadcasters, Major speech by President.

Feb. 12 ✓

- Proclamation signing ceremony, President National Day of Prayer, major denominational religious leaders nationwide

** Jan. 26, 1982-

Meese briefing - tax-exemption for private schools, for conservative and religious organization leaders

Regret
Nov. 2 ✓

WBC conv.

Donette Bright

file
Next
Day
of
Prayer

Dear Doctor,

A joy to visit with
you on Friday! Trust this
information is helpful -
An exact packet went to
the President. Thank you
for your help. We are
praying much -

Donette



Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino, California 92414



Co-chairmen:
Mrs. Bill Bright
Chairman,
National Prayer Committee
The Hon. Herbert E. Ellingwood
Chairman, U.S. Merit
Systems Protection Board

MAY 5, 1983
**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

National Day of Prayer Committee

3030 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 314, Arlington, VA 22201 (703) 522-0800

April 11, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Some two months ago, as you recall, you signed the Presidential Proclamation, setting aside Thursday, May 5, as the 1983 National Day of Prayer. We and others had requested the early proclamation-signing in order to have time both to publicize this important national observance and to encourage all Americans to make May 5 the meaningful day it deserves to be.

Thanks in substantial part to your much appreciated cooperation on the early signing date, the National Day of Prayer Committee has been able to move ahead toward these objectives in several ways. Now, with May 5 less than a month away, we want to express our gratitude to you again, bring you up-to-date on what has been done, and to ask your help in one other important way.

Within the past three weeks, the Committee has sent out more than 2,000 informational packets on the National Day of Prayer to secular and religious newspapers, magazines, wire services, and radio stations throughout the United States. This week, specially designed spot announcements are being sent to hundreds of television stations.

Other information and resource packets have been sent to hundreds of denominational heads and other religious leaders, as well as to all 50 governors and the mayors of the nation's 252 largest cities. (The mailing to governors followed the White House staff's action of sending a copy of your Proclamation to each governor.) A number of governors and mayors have already notified us of actions they have taken, or plan to take, to issue counterpart proclamations.

Many states and cities have volunteered National Day of Prayer chairmen and committees who are working on local plans. In addition, as you know, plans are far along for several events scheduled for Washington on May 5. The climactic Washington-based event will be the "Celebration of Prayer" at Constitution Hall that evening. We continue to be hopeful that you and Mrs. Reagan will be able to serve as co-chairmen of the broadly based Host Committee for the "Celebration of Prayer," and that you will be able to join us for what we believe will be a very memorable evening.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

Page Two

April 11, 1983

The additional help that we ask concerns your weekly radio broadcast. Our two main goals for the nation as a whole are to make all Americans very much aware of the significance of May 5, and to urge them to observe it at a minimum by the ringing of bells at noon on May 5, and by taking at least five minutes at that time to thank God for His blessings and pray for America and its leaders. It would be extremely helpful, we believe, if you could include something about the National Day of Prayer in your regular radio broadcast on Saturday, April 30.

Specifically, we respectfully suggest the inclusion of three thoughts:

First, the fact that the National Day of Prayer is an established national observance, and has been ever since Congress instructed the President in 1952 to set such a day aside each year;

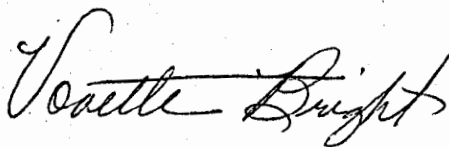
Second, encouragement to churches with bells, to ring them at noon on May 5 as a kind of national call to prayer in every community; and,

Third, encouragement to all Americans to "Take 5 at 12" on May 5 to express thanks to God and to pray for the nation and its leaders at all levels.

Background information on all of these points is enclosed with this letter.

Thank you again for your invaluable help thus far and for your consideration of this further request. Be assured of our continued prayers for you and Mrs. Reagan and our gratitude for the wonderful leadership you are giving our nation in these difficult times. God bless you.

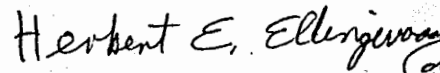
Sincerely,



Mrs. Bill Bright
Co-chairman

cc: Morton Blackwell

Enclosures



Herbert E. Ellingwood
Co-chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Natl Day
of Prayer*

Rabbi Seymour Siegel
Ralph Simon Professor of Ethics
and Theology, J.T.S.A.
3080 Broadway
New York, New York 10027

Dear Rabbi Siegel:

I enjoyed our brief chat at the White House meeting April 13. Let's get together next time you are in Washington.

Please call my office to set up an appointment.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to
the President

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

3080 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

Department of Philosophies of Judaism

Office of the Chairman

March 26, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 205006

*draft
short, nice
response that
I'll be happy
to meet with
him
MB*

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I know that this is a little late, but I wish to stress my pleasure at being invited to the White House for the signing of the Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. I also received the photograph which I am, of course, proudly displaying.

I think I told you that I have been appointed to the President's Commission for the Study of Ethics in Medicine and have already attended several meetings.

I would like to talk with you when I next come to Washington about matters of mutual interest. I will phone your office to arrange for an appointment. Thank you for your courtesies.

Very best wishes,



Rabbi Seymour Siegel
Ralph Simon Professor of Ethics
and Theology, J.T.S.A.

RSS:cc

ROLF K MC PHERSON<PRESIDENT<INTE
1100 GLENDALE BLVD
LOS ANGELES CA 90026

western union

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1-0466579124 05/04/82 ICS IPMRNCZ CSP WWSA
2134841100 MGM TDRN LOS ANGELES CA 109 05-04 0351P EST

M. Blackwell

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNMENT ROOM 87
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR YOUR COVETED INVITATION TO THE VERY
IMPORTANT NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE. THE DEMANDS IN LOS
ANGELES PREVENT ATTENDANCE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MYSELF ARE
HAVING SPECIAL PRAYER FOR YOU AND YOUR ADVISORS DURING THIS VERY
CRITICAL PERIOD IN WORLD AFFAIRS. IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE ABLE
TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO CAN KNOW GODS
DIRECTION AND WHOSE COUNSEL PROVIDES SAFETY FOR YOU AND THE NATION.
ONLY HIS DEVINE WISDOM IS SUFFICIENT FOR THIS DAY AND HOUR.

ROLF K MC PHERSON
PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

15153 EST

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10010 SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI MAY 3, 1982

SOCIAL SECRETARY *Ewing*
GOVT. ROOM ~~87-0298~~, THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

REGRET THAT YEAR END ACTIVITIES AT OUR COLLEGES MAKE IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO BE PRESENT FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE
MAY 6 AT THE WHITE HOUSE. BE ASSURED THAT THE ASSEMBLIES OF
GOD WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS NATIONAL PRAYER EMPHASIS.

DR. THOMAS F. ZIMMERMAN
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

GENCIL 436442

17:40 EST

MGMCOMP

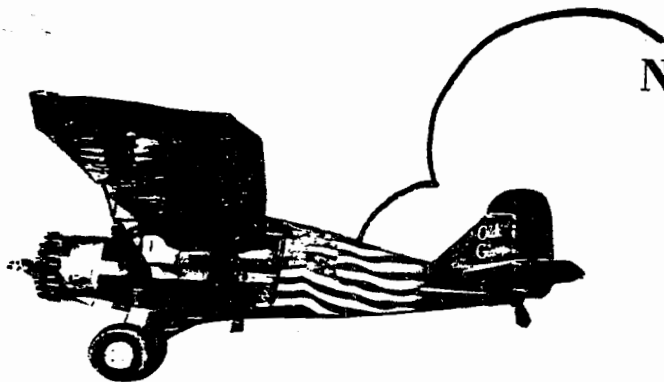
NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

"OLD GLORY FLIGHTS"

(Eastern Office) Box 50444 F St. Sta., Washington, D.C. 2004

(Western Office) Box 203, Oregon City, Ore. 97045

Ph. (503) 631-3206



April 11, 1983

Morton Blackwell
The White House

Dear Morton:

Enclosed are materials we have sent to all members of the U. S. Congress and a thousand Christian radio stations.

We are getting excellent interest in the National Day of Prayer and would certainly appreciate any word from your office as to developments - especially concerning any possibility that Congress, itself, might pause briefly to observe the day on May 5.

We have been in touch with Mrs. Bright and other groups who are working hard on this project and are looking forward to a successful celebration in Washington as an example to the whole nation.

Prayerfully yours,

Claude G. Pike, Coordinator

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

CGP/np

enc.

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collections.

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Folder: National Day of Prayer (3)-(4)
Box: 14

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