

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR CROWE

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the first Thursday in May of each year as the State Day of Prayer at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the first Thursday in May of each year as the State Day of Prayer at the Louisiana State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Congress made the National Day of Prayer an official, annual day of observance every first Thursday of May beginning in 1952; and

WHEREAS, prior to its official observance in 1952 and prior to the nation's founding, according to the original manuscript of *The Writings of George Washington*, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation recommending as follows: "The Honorable Congress having recommended to the United States to set apart Thursday the 6th of May next to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, to acknowledge the gracious interpositions of Providence; to deprecate [to pray or intreat that a present evil may be removed] deserved punishment for our Sins and Ingratitude, to unitedly implore the Protection of Heaven; success to our Arms and the Arms of our Ally: the Commander in Chief enjoins a religious observance of said day and directs the Chaplains to prepare discourses proper for the occasion, strictly forbidding all recreations and unnecessary labor"; and

WHEREAS, during the war with France, President John Adams declared May 9, 1798, as "a day of solemn humility, fasting, and prayer", during which citizens of all faiths were asked to pray "that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it"; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation expressing the idea "that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins", and designated the day of April 30, 1863, as a day of "national humiliation, fasting and prayer" in the hope that God would respond by restoring "our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace". He went on to say, ". . . it is the duty of nations as well as of

men, to own 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

WHEREAS, in his 1983 declaration, Ronald Reagan said, "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".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the first Thursday in May as the State Day of Prayer at the Louisiana State Capitol.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE