

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the mayor and city of Carencro for holding the National Day of Prayer and to confirm and defend the right of every person to celebrate the National Day of Prayer.

WHEREAS, because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition, and since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, each year the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions, and it stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people; and

WHEREAS, last year all fifty state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations and it is estimated that more than two million people attended more than thirty thousand observances organized by approximately forty thousand volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans, transcending all differences; and

WHEREAS, despite this long history as part of our culture, on April 15, 2010, the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin found the National Day of Prayer in violation of the constitutional prohibition of government endorsement of religion; and

WHEREAS, despite this threatening court ruling, many communities across the United States and Louisiana stood up for their freedom and celebrated the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, the City of Carencro received a letter from the Freedom from Religion Foundation imploring the mayor and townspeople to cancel their planned National Day of Prayer and related activities; and

WHEREAS, despite the court ruling and pressure from forces outside of this state, including the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which urged the mayor to immediately cancel the event, the citizenry of Carencro stood by their cultural and historical heritage and held a National Day of Prayer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the mayor and city of Carencro for having the courage and conviction to continue the long-held tradition of the National Day of Prayer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby confirm and defend the right and privilege of every person to celebrate the National Day of Prayer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the City of Carencro.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES