

2018 -- H 8161

LC005481

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING AND RECOGNIZING MAY 3, 2018, AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Hull, Diaz, Azzinaro, Edwards, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: May 03, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, During times of strength and times of weakness, in moments of joy and
2 moments of despair, Americans of many different faiths and traditions have turned to prayer as a
3 means of seeking comfort, giving thanks, and asking for guidance and grace; and

4 WHEREAS, Prayer brings communities together and can be a source of inspiration and
5 courage. In the aftermath of senseless acts of violence and unnecessary suffering and death, the
6 prayers of countless Americans signal to grieving families and communities that they are not
7 alone. Their pain is a shared pain, and their hope is a shared hope. Regardless of religion or creed,
8 Americans of faith reflect on the sacredness of life and express their sympathy for the wounded
9 and the recovering, offering comfort and holding up a light in a time of darkness; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, Americans continue the tradition of our ancestors by acknowledging
11 the power of prayer in our lives and cherishing our right to pray freely; and

12 WHEREAS, The tradition of national supplication was made official in 1952, when
13 President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress establishing a floating
14 annual national day of prayer. Finally, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set the date for the
15 annual prayer day as the first Thursday in May; and

16 WHEREAS, The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "Pray for America-
17 Unity." Guided by the belief that prayer brings unity and that God can bring anyone and anything
18 together, including opposing persons and opposing political parties, Ephesians 4:3 was chosen as
19 this year's highlighted scripture with its challenge to unify by "Making every effort to keep unity

1 of the spirit through the bond of peace"; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims and recognizes May 3, 2018, as "National Day of
4 Prayer" in Rhode Island; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That all Rhode Islanders are encouraged to set aside a particular moment
6 on this day to participate in this meaningful spiritual event and to encourage their friends and
7 neighbors to observe this year's National Day of Prayer according to their own faith or practice.

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