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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING MAY 4, 2023, AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators F. Lombardi, de la Cruz, Rogers, Lombardo, Tikoian, Ciccone, DiPalma, and Picard

Date Introduced: May 04, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

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 Christian Bible underscores the precious promise of faith in 2  
17 Chronicles 7:14, "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and  
18 seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive  
19 their sin and will heal their land"; and

1           WHEREAS, The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "Pray Fervently in  
2 Righteousness and Avail Much", an exhortation to apply the words of James 5:16B, which states  
3 that "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates and  
5 recognizes May 4, 2023, as "National Day of Prayer" in Rhode Island; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to set aside a  
7 particular moment on this day to participate in this meaningful spiritual event and to encourage  
8 their friends and neighbors to observe this year's National Day of Prayer according to their own  
9 faith or practice; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard and Cheryl Russell, State Coordinators  
12 of the National Day of Prayer.

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