

## *Calling Our Nation to Prayer*

Our nation throughout its history, whether in times of crisis or thanksgiving, has been strengthened and guided by prayers offered to the Creator Who endowed us with our cherished inalienable rights, and upon whose Divine Providence our leaders have often relied when facing difficult challenges.



Acknowledging America’s strong heritage of faith, the U.S. Congress, in 1952, passed a joint resolution establishing an annual National Day of Prayer. It was signed into law by President Truman who proclaimed July 4<sup>th</sup> of that year as the first annual observance. Thirty-six years later, in 1988, President Reagan’s signature on legislation that had been passed by the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress set the day for the annual observance of America’s National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May, which, this year, is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

In times past, the greatest of our country’s statesmen and presidents have publicly offered heartfelt prayers for the nation, its citizens, and those who had been chosen to govern. Thomas Jefferson, on the occasion of his second Presidential Inauguration, March 4, 1805, prayed a “National Prayer for Peace”. Much of his prayer includes still-relevant petitions that can be offered for America and the challenges we face in 2016:

*Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people...*

*Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations... In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

The theme for this year’s National Day of Prayer is “Wake Up America!”. As concerned, involved Republican Women, we can be part of that wake-up call during this critical election year. I hope many of us, on May 5<sup>th</sup> and beyond, will continue the American tradition of prayer for our country. Thomas Jefferson’s words can help to inspire, as can the prayer written for the 2016 N.D.P. observance by Pastor Tony Evans, honorary chairman for this year’s event. It can be accessed at: [www.nationaldayofprayer.org/national-prayer](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/national-prayer).

May God bless America,

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