

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. R. No. **1**

A House resolution

recognizing the first Thursday in May as a day of statewide prayer, fasting, and repentance in Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Minnesota have roots in many cultures, with nearly every nationality represented, and honor a variety of religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the history of our state is replete with leaders who voluntarily called upon God, whether the need was great or small; and

WHEREAS, civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, our first statement of national purpose and identity as Americans, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both houses of Congress and signed by the President; and

WHEREAS, May 4, 2023, marks the 72nd consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer in cities and towns throughout the United States and provides us with a powerful opportunity to humble ourselves; and

WHEREAS, over 40,000 prayer gatherings will occur this year at churches, capitols, courthouses, mosques, synagogues, temples, and schools, allowing millions to pray; and

WHEREAS, we continue to pray for American armed services members and their families, for the families of loved ones who have died, and for all who suffer because of various diseases, illnesses, and addictions; and

WHEREAS, in his 1863 proclamation of a national day of prayer, President Abraham Lincoln noted that the Congress had called upon him to appoint such a day "devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and of nations"; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln noted further in this proclamation that "It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness"; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that it affirms the sentiments of President Lincoln and commends them to Minnesotans to be applied to their daily lives and that it recognizes May 4, 2023, as a Day of Prayer in the state of Minnesota and commends this observance to all citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by his signature and that of the Speaker, and transmit it to the National Prayer Committee.