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No phrase could better represent the resolute faith of our early leaders than our national motto, "In God We Trust." I introduced a resolution, H.Con.Res.13, to reaffirm this national motto, and to encourage its public display in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions. The phrase implies a continued belief that, when we pray to God for help, He will answer.

In 2005, I formed the Congressional Prayer Caucus—an official caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives—to recognize the important role that prayer has played in strengthening the fabric of our society throughout our more than 200-year history. This bipartisan group of 89 Members of the House is working to ensure that all Americans remain free to exercise their rights to pray.

In a letter written on January 5, 1863, President Lincoln said, "It is most cheering and encouraging for me to know that in the efforts which I have made and am making for the restoration of a righteous peace to our country, I am upheld and sustained by the good wishes and prayers of God's people. No one is more deeply aware than myself that without His favor our highest wisdom is but as foolishness and that our most strenuous efforts would avail nothing in the shadow of His displeasure. . . . It seems to me that if there be one subject upon which all good men may unitedly agree, it is imploring the gracious favor of the God of Nations upon the struggles our people are making for the preservation of their precious birthright of civil and religious liberty."

Lincoln's words aptly reflect the immense honor and gratitude that I feel as an elected official, knowing that others are praying on my behalf.

—Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., is Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus

PEACE OF JERUSALEM - OCTOBER 2

Join in a global chorus of prayer! On Sunday, Oct. 2, tens of millions of Christians in literally every corner of this planet will unite for the Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem (DPPJ), a day specifically set aside by more than 1,200 international Christian leaders. Visit: www.daytopray.com.

COLUMBUS DAY - OCTOBER 10

As many Americans celebrate the discovery of the New World, join others in praying for Native people and those serving in Native ministry. Visit: www.firstnationsmonday.com.



CHURCH PRAY! is a monthly corporate prayer help to local churches published since 1991. This bulletin is posted for free download at "Resources" on our Web site or available as a one-sheet master for use on a copy machine or for quick print services. A monthly First Friday Prayer Letter and mid-week Alert are also available upon request. To subscribe to Church Pray! or inquire about other services, contact: INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA, PO Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134. Tel 540-317-2070; E-mail ifa@ifapray.org Web sites: www.IFAPray.org www.GetAmericaPraying.com

**CHURCH
PRAY!**

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

—Jeremiah 33:3

**OCTOBER 2011
PRAYER FOCUS**

Sunday, October 2, 2011

DAY OF PRAYER FOR JERUSALEM – Pray, "Lord, let your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth." Open the eyes of those who do not understand that You want to bless all of Your creation.

Sunday, October 9, 2011

CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY – Today is Clergy Appreciation Day in many local congregations. Take time to pray for, bless, and express gratitude to your pastor(s), other church leadership, their spouses and families. (Luke 10:2)

Sunday, October 16, 2011

HUNGRY AND HOMELESS – Demand upon the nation's food banks has increased. Colder weather brings increased suffering to many who are unemployed and homeless, especially children. Pray for the answered needs for shelters, food, clothing and employment.

Sunday, October 23, 2011

PRIMARY CAMPAIGNS – Pray that moral, God-fearing, pro-life and pro-family men and women be selected, supported, and find favor in local, state, and national campaigns.

Sunday, October 30, 2011

THE OCCULT – Tomorrow is Halloween. Pray that Christians receive discernment and direction to avoid participation in demonic activities. Pray that Jesus Christ is revealed as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**"GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR PRAYERS"**

BY CONGRESSMAN J. RANDY FORBES

Throughout America's history, elected officials have relied on prayer, seeking Divine guidance in their decision-making, and asking for God's assistance in the affairs of our nation. They have called the nation to corporate prayer in times of celebration, as well as in hardship. They have asked individuals to pray that God would guide their governance, believing that the nation's success and protection ultimately rested in His hands.

Those who helped America take her first steps believed that their success depended upon Divine Providence. The bravery demonstrated by the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who risked their lives to break free from England, showed a most profound trust in God. The words of the framers demonstrate their willingness to risk everything to establish a free nation: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

During a time of intense conflict at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin addressed the delegates who had gathered from across the budding Republic. In reflecting on America's inception, Franklin said, "To . . . kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity." In contemplating the Convention's potential success, Franklin continued, "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?" Franklin's words are as insightful today as they were over 200 years ago.

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