## The original documents are located in Box 21, "1/14/76 - National Prayer Breakfast Message to the Military" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN .....

## FILM SPOT NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

## MESSAGE TO MILITARY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1976

I WELCOME THIS PRIVILEGE OF JOINING THE MEN

AND WOMEN OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES FOR A MOMENT

OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION AT THIS NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST.

AS WE REVIEW THE TRUTHS AND VALUES ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS ESTABLISHED, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A PRAYER FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- A PRAYER WHICH GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY, WROTE AND SENT TO THE GOVERNORS OF ALL STATES ON JUNE 8, 1783• AS IN WASHINGTON'S DAY, WE GIVE THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR HIS PROVIDENTIAL CARE• WE SEEK HIS DIVINE DIRECTION AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE• WE DO SO HUMBLY IN THESE WORDS OF OUR FIRST PRESIDENT: "I NOW MAKE IT MY EARNEST PRAYER, THAT GOD

WOULD HAVE YOU AND THE STATE OVER WHICH YOU PRESIDE, <u>IN HIS HOLY PROTECTION</u>, THAT HE WOULD INCLINE THE HEARTS OF THE <u>CITIZENS</u> TO <u>CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF SUBORDINATION</u> AND <u>OBEDIENCE TO GOVERNMENT</u>, TO <u>ENTERTAIN A</u> <u>BROTHERLY AFFECTION AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER</u>, FOR THEIR <u>FELLOW CITIZENS</u> OF THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE, AND PARTICULARLY FOR THEIR BRETHREN WHO HAVE <u>SERVED IN THE FIELD</u>, AND FINALLY, THAT HE WOULD MOST GRACIOUSLY BE PLEASED TO DISPOSE US ALL, TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO DEMEAN OURSELVES WITH THAT CHARITY, HUMILITY AND PACIFIC TEMPER OF MIND, WHICH WERE THE CHARACTERISTICKS OF THE DIVINE AUTHOR OF OUR BLESSED RELIGION, AND WITHOUT A HUMBLE IMITATION OF WHOSE EXAMPLE IN THESE THINGS, WE CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE A HAPPY NATION."

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