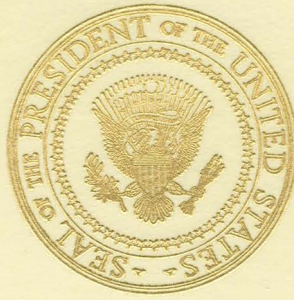


The original documents are located in Box 35, folder “National Day of Prayer” of the William J. Barody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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National Day of Prayer, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ours is a Nation built upon a belief in a Creator who has endowed all men with inalienable rights, and faith in that Creator permeates every aspect of our way of life.

With characteristically quiet eloquence, President Dwight D. Eisenhower once described the central role of religion in American life:

"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first—the most basic—expression of Americanism. Thus the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."

Let us pray, each in our own way, for the strength and the will to meet the challenges that face us today with the same profound faith in God that inspired the Founders of this Nation.

Let us pray, as our Fathers prayed, for the wisdom to know God's way and the determination to follow it.

Let us pray that God will continue to bless this great and good land as abundantly in the future as he has in the past.

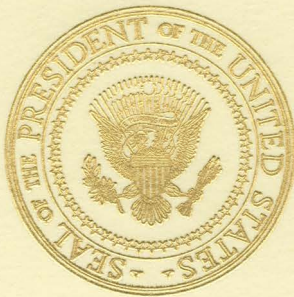
In 1952 the Congress directed the President to set aside a suitable day other than a Sunday each year as a National Day of Prayer, in recognition of the profound religious faith on which America is built.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 18, as National Day of Prayer, 1974.

I call upon all Americans to pray that day, each after his or her own manner and convictions, for Deity's blessing on our land and for peace on earth, goodwill among all men.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



National Day of Prayer, 1974

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Gerald R. Ford



National Day of Prayer, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we begin the celebration of our Bicentennial, it is fitting to recall that it was a profound faith in God which inspired the Founders of our Nation. Two hundred years ago, on June 12, 1775, the Second Continental Congress called upon the inhabitants of all the Colonies to unite, on a designated Thursday in July, in "humiliation, fasting, and prayer." This was our first national day of prayer.

Americans on that day were asked to address their prayers to the "Great Governor of the World" to preserve their new Union and secure civil and religious liberties.

Those first prayers were answered in full measure. The Union survives. The liberties for which our forefathers prayed were never so secure as they are today. But material progress and human achievement often beckon mankind away from the spiritual virtues.

As we prepare to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Nation, it is my fervent hope that Americans will not forget that it was prayer that helped to forge our freedoms and foster our liberties.

Let us now pray—as we have done throughout our history, and as the Congress has requested (66 Stat. 64)—for the wisdom to continue the American pilgrimage, striving toward a nobler existence for all humanity. Let us ask for the strength to meet the challenges that face our Nation. Let us give thanks to God for the many blessings granted to America throughout these two centuries. And let us express the hope that our lives may continue to be enriched by the grace of our Maker.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, July 24, 1975, as National Day of Prayer, 1975.

I call upon all Americans to pray that day, each after his or her own manner and convictions, for unity and the blessings of Freedom throughout our land and for peace on earth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



National Day of Prayer, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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Gerald R. Ford



National Day of Prayer, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In this Bicentennial year, we will often reflect on the events of 200 years ago. As we recall the crises of those early days, let us also reflect on the profound faith in God which inspired the founding fathers.

As the events of 1776 unfolded, our forebears knew they were on an uncertain course. On March 16 of that year, the Continental Congress, recognizing the "impending calamity and distress," asked each colony "publicly to acknowledge the over-ruling Providence of God," and urged the Colonists to observe a designated Friday in May as a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer."

When later that year, the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, the pledge was made "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence."

In conformity with a Congressional request (66 Stat. 64), it is especially appropriate this year that a day be set aside to reaffirm the commitment of our first citizens and draw on the "solemn sense of God's superintending Providence" that sustained them during those troubled times.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 14, 1976, as National Day of Prayer, 1976.

I call upon all Americans to pray that day, each in his or her own way, for the strength to meet the challenges of the future with the same courage and dedication Americans showed the world two centuries ago.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford



National Day of Prayer, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford

DECEMBER 5, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1974

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

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With characteristically quiet eloquence, President Dwight D. Eisenhower once described the central role of religion in American life:

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

#



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Press Release of Nat'l Prayer

Msg sent 12/12/74

September 4, 1974

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

The President has asked me to respond to your recent correspondence regarding the need for a national prayer observance.

In addition to the Congressional action of December 20, 1973 which you cited in your letter, the 82nd Congress passed Public Law 324, authorizing the President to set aside a suitable day each year as a National Day of Prayer. This has been done by Presidential Proclamation during each year subsequent to the passage of that law. We expect the Proclamation for 1974 to be issued at some point during the next couple of months.

It was good of you to take the time to express your sentiments with respect to this matter. We appreciate hearing from you, and share your belief in the importance of a firm, spiritual foundation to the well-being of our country.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

BS
William J. Baroody, Jr.
Special Consultant to the President



Mr. Jacob B. Goldstein
634 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07307

WJB
RLE:MMC:mmc

Proclamation (ceremonial) sent

12/12/74

September 4, 1974

Dear Mr. Mayor:

The President has asked me to respond to your recent correspondence regarding the need for a national period of prayer.

As you know, the United States does not observe a National Week of Prayer at the present time. However, Public Law 324, which was passed by the 82nd Congress, authorizes the President to set aside a suitable day each year as a National Day of Prayer. This has been done by Presidential Proclamation during each year subsequent to the passage of that legislation. We expect the Proclamation for 1974 to be issued at some point within the next couple months.

It was good of you to take the time to express your sentiments with respect to this matter. We appreciate hearing from you, and share your belief in the importance of a firm, spiritual foundation to the well-being of our country.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

B1
William J. Baroody, Jr.
Special Consultant to the President

Honorable Hubert L. Barrier
Mayor of Independence
Post Office Box 133
Independence, Virginia 24348

RLE:WJB:MMC:mmc

DATE:

8/28

TO:

Margaret McAuliffe

yes - Thanks.

RE

Roland L. Elliott

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

August 28, 1974

Mr. Elliott:

Public Law 324 passed by the 82nd Congress authorizes the President to each year set aside a suitable day (other than a Sunday) as a National Day of Prayer. This will be done again this year, probably in October.

Please let me know if you want me to reply to these letters.

Marguerite McAuliffe 

DATE:

8/28

TO:

Margaret MacDuffie -

Is anything planned
for this year or next?

Mac'd Day of Prayer
in October of this
year. as every year

Roland L. Elliott

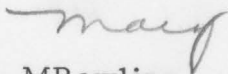
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 27

Mr. Elliott -

What to do with these letters
asking that the President
proclaim a National Day
or Prayer.

Thanks.


MRawlins

incl 51-R
8-23-74
Interview

Proclamation & Apprec.
"Day of Prayer"

AUGUST 21 1974

ACTION
T/D _____
SCHEDULE BD. _____
DATE RECEIVED _____
RMN MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE _____

AUG 27 1974

MR. PRESIDENT,

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE THANKS FOR
YOUR NICE LETTER OF JANUARY 1974 WHILE YOU WERW
VICE PRESIDENT.
I BELIEVE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO BE AN HONEST MAN
AND YOU WILL NOT IGNORE A MESSAGE FROM GOD.
FOR FIFTY YEARS I HAVE SENT THOUSANDS OF LETTERS
TO ALL U.S. SENATORS. TO PROCLAIM A DAY OF PRAYER
AS GOD COMMANDED

FINALLY ON DEC. 20th 1973 THE ENTIRE CONGRESS
PROCLAIMED APRIL 30th A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER
BUT IT WAS NOT PUBLICISED AND THE PEOPLE DID NOT
KNOW ABOUT IT.

MR. PRESIDENT IN THE NAME OF OUR HOLY FATHER
IN HEAVEN I ASK THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY PROCLAIM
THIS DAY OF PRAYER NOW AND AGAIN ON APRIL 30th
MAY GOD BLESS YOUR EXCELLENCY WITH THE WISDOM
TO REALIZE THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS SUCCED
WITHOUT GOD ALL THINGS FAIL.

I REMAIN YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT
ELIJAH THE PROPHET THE WANDERING JEW

P S IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE A SHORT INTERVEIW.

Jacob M. Gorkstein

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

The World



METROPOLITAN SECTION

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1929.

Wandering Jew Visits Us as a Sandwich Man

Spends His Lunch Hours
'Advertising' Program
for Ending Wars

By Paul F. Huserl

A FEW days ago, shortly after noon,
a tall, slender, smooth-shaven,

picketed and followed him when he removed the sandwich-boards and strolled away, looking like any other modern business man. It was enough to arouse anybody's curiosity.

The man had not begged. He had received no money. All he had done was to give away pamphlets, begging only that those who received them should not throw them away. The pamphlet said "I am THE WANDERING JEW, God's Messenger." The

quarters at No. 315 Broadway are in a "gents" furnishing store. This, he explained, was merely due to the courtesy of the store's manager.

Asked to explain himself, he did so with what seemed impassioned sincerity. Let him tell the story in his own words:

"After the Spanish-American War I happened to be on an errand for my employer which brought me past a sad sight. I saw at Pier 2, East River, a battleship—and on the dock I saw about 1,000 wooden coffins containing young men who were killed in that war.

"My sense of justice awakened in me, and I began to think. I asked myself these questions: Is this justice? Here lie about 1,000 young men slain in battle; what for? Suppose one of them

worldly pleasures. In the year 1923 a crisis arose in my life. I was confronted with the fact that I was neglecting my wife and two children. The proposition was either to give up my ideal or my wife and children.

"I pondered over the problem for one year and decided to go to California with my ideal. It was in Los Angeles, while I was deep in my studies, that a miracle happened to me.

The Miracle
Of the Voice

"While walking in the street pondering on the same old question, where or to whom can the nations go to settle their disputes, I heard a voice saying in the Yiddish tongue: 'Fear not, I am with thee.' The voice re-

The New York Telegram

THE NEW YORK TELEGRAM, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1928.

WELL— HAT OF IT?

God's Messenger, Collar Buttons and Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.

—ROBERT GARLAND—

IT'S curious to come face to face with God's Messenger amid the

wear, God's Messenger explains how, after the Spanish-American War, he happened to pass Pier Two, East River, on an errand for his employer. On the dock were a thousand or more wooden coffins. Each wooden coffin contained the body of a young man. And each young man had been a soldier who had gone out and died for—

What had he died for, anyway? Then and there, Mr. Goldstein's "sense of justice awakened" within him. He began to think. Thinking, he asked

thousand years, men and angels have cried out "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" as we Christians kept on bumping each other off.

But when, in Mr. Bodee's Cut Price Haberdashery, you talk with a direct, soft spoken, likable young Brooklynite who has given up a successful business, a wife, a family and a home to go out in City Hall Park and assure his fellow citizens that the voice of God has spoken to him in Yiddish, urging him to do his part in the betterment of men, it is as Mr. Bodee

tears, praying to God to forgive him for his sins.

On November 14th, 1923, Mr. Goldstein walked up to the altar to say the blessing of the Torah. "Dear Holy Father in heaven," he prayed, "show me the remedy for war." And behold the supernatural voice again spoke to Mr. Goldstein. "Fear not," the voice said, "I heard thy prayer and this is the remedy for war. Set aside a day, of universal prayer, each one to go to his own church or synagogue and I will abolish war from the earth."

A MESSAGE FROM GOD TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MR. PRESIDENT,

GOD KNOWS OF YOUR DESIRE TO BRING PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS. BUT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT THE HELP OF GOD.

48 YEARS AGO IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, GOD SPOKE TO ME IN AN AUDIBLE VOICE SAYING,

“DELIVER TO THE PRESIDENT THIS MESSAGE THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

PROCLAIM A DAY OF PRAYER AND ASK ALL NATIONS TO JOIN, ON THIS DAY EACH ONE TO GO TO THE CHURCH OF HIS DENOMINATION, PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS OF HIS SINS AND I WILL ABOLISH WAR FROM THE EARTH.

I THE LORD GOD CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH HAVE SPOKEN IT. ”

MR. PRESIDENT, IN 1925 I WAS PLACED BEHIND PRISON BARS FOR SAYING GOD SPOKE TO ME IN AN AUDIBLE VOICE. THIS IS THE LOT OF A PROPHET AS ALWAYS. I RECEIVED MANY NICE LETTERS FROM PRESIDENTS ALWAYS SIGNED BY SECRETARYS. YOUR EXCELLENCY IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO SEND ME A NICE LETTER SIGNED BY YOUR EXCELLENCY, MARCH 2, 1971.

THUS SAITH THE LORD

BEHOLD, I SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD,: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE.

I BELIEVE YOUR EXCELLENCY IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT MAN AND YOU WILL NOT ASK THE SAME QUESTION AS PHAROAH “ WHO IS THE LORD THAT I SHOULD OBEY HIM”?

I PLEAD WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY NOT TO WAIT FOR THE LORD TO SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE, BUT PROCLAIM THE DAY OF PRAYER AS GOD COMMANDED. MAY I HUMBLY SUGGEST THE PRAYER BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN.....

MAY GOD BLESS YOUR EXCELLENCY WITH THE WISDOM TO OBEY. TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.

I REMAIN YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT

ELIJAH THE PROPHET THE WANDERING JEW

JACOB B. GOLDSTEIN

... Whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured

PROCLAMATION BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
MARCH, 1863

God's standard of justice and righteousness for this society; and

Whereas, it therefore behooves us to humble ourselves before Almighty God, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, that the Congress hereby proclaims that April 30, 1974 be a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; and calls upon the people of our nation to humble ourselves as we see fit, before our Creator to acknowledge our final dependence upon Him and to repent of our national sins.

In the name of our Holy Father in heaven
The Lord God Creator of heaven and earth
Whose messenger I am, I ask all nations
to join in this day of prayer.
And God will abolish war from the earth.

Please acknowledge this message

God bless you with a wise and understanding
heart.

Elijah The Prophet The Wandering Jew
Jacob B. Goldstein 634 Palisade Ave.
Jersey City, N.J. 07307

This prayer and creed is for all mankind.

I pray dear Holy Father in heaven have mercy on me forgive me for my sins and help me. Amen.

I believe our Holy Father in heaven is

I believe He is devine

I believe His decisions are truth and devine justice.

Jacob B. Goldstein
634 Palisade Ave.
Jersey City, N. J. 07307

Interview



GERALD R. FORD

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON D.C.

**PERSONAL
VERY URGENT**

**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**



15
open
Invitation
+ suggestion
for Nat'l Day
of Prayer

TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

P. O. BOX 133 • PHONE 773-3703
INDEPENDENCE, VIRGINIA 24348

HUBERT L. BARRIER
MAYOR

J. COLIN CAMPBELL
TOWN ATTORNEY

FRED HILL WELLBORN
CLERK

August 17, 1974

COUNCILMEN
HERBERT LEE ANDERSON
JACK L. RUDOLPH
FRED HILL WELLBORN
CARL RICHARDSON
CHARLES SMITH CASSELL
ROSS QUESENBERRY

ACTION
T/D _____
SCHEDULE BD. _____
DATE RECEIVED
AUG 26 1974
RMN MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford;

On two occasions during the past year, I wrote to former president Richard M. Nixon asking that a National Week of Prayer be declared and that, during that week, special religious services be held both in the White House and in churches throughout our nation. I felt this suggestion necessary and vital in order to renew the faith of all of our people and to bring us closer together and to help us to become stronger Christians and better Americans. At the time I submitted my suggestion and my plea for reconsideration of this suggestion, the President and/or his staff did not feel that it could be carried out.

Now more than ever, I feel that a National Week of Prayer would be a great moral boost for all Americans as we need to reunite and work for the future.

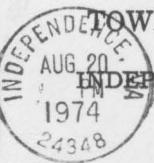
While I realize that it would be next to impossible for you to visit our community with your busy schedule, I wish to extend an open invitation for you to visit us at any time.

I offer you my sincere prayers and support as you undertake the task ahead of you as we begin to rebuild the faith in America and Americans.

Kind personal regards.

Very truly yours,
Hubert L. Barrier
Hubert L. Barrier
Mayor

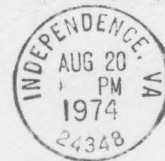
Hubert L. Barrier, Mayor



TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

P. O. Box 99

INDEPENDENCE, VIRGINIA 24348



Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MARGUERITE McCAULIFFE

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

"National Day of Prayer, 1975"

(Thursday, July 24, 1975)



Robert D. Linder
Robert D. Linder

May 13, 1975

Dear Bishop Allin:

The President was glad to receive your letter and can well understand your interest in the National Day of Prayer. I am pleased to report that in line with your suggestion, the President does intend to proclaim June 12 as our traditional National Day of Prayer. As soon as the official proclamation is issued, a copy will be forwarded to you.

You have the President's appreciation for your concern about this matter -- and for your continuing prayers in his behalf.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

The Right Reverend John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop
Episcopal Church
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

cc: Robert Liddar
Paul Theis
Margaurite McAuliffe

RLE:AV:RLE:aby

peni
6/19/75

May 27, 1975

Dear Mr. Bottoms:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your letter of May 22.

I believe you will be pleased to know that the President does, in fact, intend to proclaim June 12, 1975, a National Day of Prayer, marking the 200th anniversary of the colonies' first occasion of united prayer. The President appreciates your sharing your interest in this matter with him, and he has asked me to extend his best wishes.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Lawrence W. Bottoms
Moderator
114th General Assembly
Presbyterian Church in the United States
341 Ponce De Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

cc: Marguerite McAuliffe for copy of Proclamation to
Mr. Bottoms when it is prepared.

RLE:JHH:RLE:aby

*sent
6/19/75*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19.

National Day of Prayer

7/24

3 To Dr. Kane

4 To John Nidesder