



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the faith of our founding fathers has played a significant role in American history, long inspiring us to seek unity through such traditions as days of prayer and reflection; and

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to seek wisdom as they formed a nation, praying has remained as important a part of the lives of many Americans as during the early days of our Country's rise to greatness; and

Whereas, for more than 225 years, the call to prayer has been echoed throughout history by such leaders as President Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," and President Truman, who in 1952 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer, and President Ronald Reagan, who in 1988 signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, this year's observance gives us cause to reflect upon the need to reaffirm our faith as we look for guidance and protection of America and its people, keeping in mind recent domestic and global events that present challenges; and

Whereas, in considering the many benefits of life in this great nation, we are thankful for the rewards that democracy brings and the values we hold highest – these cherished principles continue to serve as the foundation of our union, drawing us together for the 57th annual National Day of Prayer, which will be observed in churches, synagogues, statehouses, halls of government, other public venues – and within our homes – by people across America; and

Whereas, during these uncertain times, it is fitting that all New Yorkers join to honor the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness based upon an enduring belief in religious freedom and all freedoms upon which this nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim May 1, 2008 as a

Day of Prayer and Reflection

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth
day of April in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor