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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING MAY 4, 2023, AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators F. Lombardi, de la Cruz, Rogers, Lombardo, Tikoian, Ciccone, DiPalma, Picard, Felag, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: May 04, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, During times of strength and times of weakness, in moments of joy and
2 moments of despair, Americans of many different faiths and traditions have turned to prayer as a
3 means of seeking comfort, giving thanks, and asking for guidance and grace; and

4 WHEREAS, Prayer brings communities together and can be a source of inspiration and
5 courage. In the aftermath of senseless acts of violence and unnecessary suffering and death, the
6 prayers of countless Americans signal to grieving families and communities that they are not
7 alone. Their pain is a shared pain, and their hope is a shared hope. Regardless of religion or creed,
8 Americans of faith reflect on the sacredness of life and express their sympathy for the wounded
9 and the recovering, offering comfort and holding up a light in a time of darkness; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, Americans continue the tradition of our ancestors by acknowledging
11 the power of prayer in our lives and cherishing our right to pray freely; and

12 WHEREAS, The tradition of national supplication was made official in 1952, when
13 President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress establishing a floating
14 annual national day of prayer. Finally, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set the date for the
15 annual prayer day as the first Thursday in May; and

16 WHEREAS, The Christian Bible underscores the precious promise of faith in 2
17 Chronicles 7:14, "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and
18 seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive
19 their sin and will heal their land"; and

1 WHEREAS, The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "Pray Fervently in
2 Righteousness and Avail Much", an exhortation to apply the words of James 5:16B, which states
3 that "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates and
5 recognizes May 4, 2023, as "National Day of Prayer" in Rhode Island; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby encourages all Rhode Islanders to set aside a
7 particular moment on this day to participate in this meaningful spiritual event and to encourage
8 their friends and neighbors to observe this year's National Day of Prayer according to their own
9 faith or practice; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Richard and Cheryl Russell, State Coordinators
12 of the National Day of Prayer.

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