



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to join in prayer, seeking wisdom as they faced the responsibility and opportunity of building a new nation. Three decades later, during a time of national turmoil, President John Adams declared “a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer,” asking citizens of all faiths to pray for America’s protection from danger. Later, as civil war tore our young country apart, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of national fasting and prayer, saying “it behooves us ... to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray to the God that made us.”

These times of national supplication were made official in 1952, with the signing of a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress by President Harry Truman, establishing a floating annual national day of prayer. Finally, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set the date of the annual prayer day as the first Thursday of May.

Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer and reflection during times of strength and weakness and in moments of joy and despair, seeking comfort, giving thanks and asking for guidance and grace. Today, Americans continue in the tradition of our forefathers by acknowledging the power of prayer in our lives and cherishing our right to pray freely.

We are asked again this year to join together in prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009, for the 58th Annual National Day of Prayer. The spirit of this year’s theme, “Prayer... America’s Hope,” is reflected in Psalm 33:22: “May your unfailing love rest upon us, oh, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.”

As our nation comes together, let us all pray for unity and righteousness — for this great state, this great nation and all mankind.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2009,

A Day of Prayer

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this
5th day of January, 2009.


Governor of Texas

