

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1073

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION in support of the National Day of Prayer.

WHEREAS, since 1952, every President of the United States has declared a National Day of Prayer, and the National Day of Prayer has been held on the first Thursday in May since 1988; and

WHEREAS, a federal district court has recently ruled the National Day of Prayer unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, we cannot help but think that this decision was ill-considered and is ultimately incorrect; and

WHEREAS, prayer is very important to Americans and a powerful force in American society; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer does not violate the principle of separation of church and state, but rather acknowledges the important role of religion in the United States, a fact that every President since Harry S. Truman, including President Obama, has recognized by issuing a proclamation declaring a National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, setting aside a special day "to turn to God in prayer," as the National Day of Prayer does, represents a time-honored American tradition and an appropriate exercise of the First Amendment, and is certainly not unconstitutional; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly stands strongly in support of the National Day of Prayer, because such day pays tribute to our heritage while recognizing the important role prayer continues to play in American society today.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly urge President Obama to continue this time-honored tradition by issuing a National Day of Prayer proclamation for 2010, and each year thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to President Barack Obama.