

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 35

Declaring June 6 a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their mission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2007

Mr. DEMINT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Declaring June 6 a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their mission.

Whereas public prayer and national days of prayer are a long-standing American tradition to bolster national resolve and summon the national will for victory;

Whereas the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation in 1775;

Whereas Benjamin Franklin proposed that the Constitutional Convention begin each day with a prayer;

Whereas General George Washington, as he prepared his troops for battle with the British in May 1776, ordered them to pray for the campaign ahead, that it would please the Almighty to “prosper the arms of the united

colonies” and “establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation”;

Whereas President Abraham Lincoln, in declaring in the Gettysburg Address that “this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom”, rededicated the Nation to ensuring that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”;

Whereas, as 73,000 Americans stormed the beaches at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944 (D-Day), President Franklin Delano Roosevelt went on the national radio to lead the Nation in prayer for their success;

Whereas, in his D-Day radio prayer, President Roosevelt did not declare a single day of special prayer, but instead compelled all Americans to “devote themselves in a continuance of prayer”;

Whereas the words of President Roosevelt calling on all Americans to “devote themselves in a continuance of prayer” for American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in harm’s way are just as appropriate today as they were in June 1944;

Whereas, with our troops once again facing danger abroad and the Nation looking for support here at home, the time is ripe to once again heed the words and prayerful wisdom contained in the D-Day radio address of the 20th century’s greatest Democrat president as he implored the Nation: “as we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts”;

Whereas more than 350,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces are deployed worldwide today;

Whereas more than 200,000 of these troops are engaged in armed combat in Iraq and Afghanistan against determined and ruthless enemies;

Whereas more than 3,800 brave Americans have been killed, and over 26,000 have been wounded, while fighting the War on Terror;

Whereas, because the War on Terror will be long and hard, because success is not likely to come with rushing speed, and because the sacrifice will continue to be immeasurable in human terms, it is appropriate to make every anniversary of D-Day, June 6th, a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their mission; and

Whereas the D-Day radio address of President Roosevelt is the inspiration and model for this annual national day of prayer and rededication: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) every June 6 will hereafter be a national
4 day of prayer and rededication for the men and
5 women of the United States Armed Forces and their
6 mission; and

7 (2) in encouraging our fellow Americans to join
8 us in this national day of prayer and rededication
9 for our troops and their mission, that the Senate
10 and the House of Representatives will each des-
11 ignate one member to read aloud in the Senate and
12 House chambers each June 6th, in its entirety,

1 President Roosevelt's D-Day radio prayer, as fol-
2 lows:

3 "My Fellow Americans:

4 Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome,
5 I knew at that moment that troops of the United States
6 and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and
7 greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus
8 far.

9 And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me
10 in prayer:

11 Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have
12 set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our
13 Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free
14 a suffering humanity.

15 Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms,
16 stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

17 They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and
18 hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our
19 forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we
20 shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy
21 grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will
22 triumph.

23 They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without
24 rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent

1 by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the
2 violences of war.

3 For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.
4 They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end
5 conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice
6 arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.
7 They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to
8 the haven of home.

9 Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and re-
10 ceive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

11 And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sis-
12 ters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts
13 and prayers are ever with them—help us, Almighty God,
14 to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this
15 hour of great sacrifice.

16 Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single
17 day of special prayer. But because the road is long and
18 the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves
19 in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day,
20 and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer
21 be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

22 Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to re-
23 double the contributions we make in the physical and the
24 material support of our armed forces.

1 And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail,
2 to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage
3 unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

4 And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith
5 in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united cru-
6 sade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled.

7 Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal mat-
8 ters of but fleeting moment—let not these deter us in our
9 unconquerable purpose.

10 With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces
11 of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed
12 and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our coun-
13 try, and with our sister nations into a world unity that
14 will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the
15 schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all
16 of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their
17 honest toil.

18 Thy will be done, Almighty God.

19 Amen.”.

