

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS

# A CALL TO PRAYER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

**T**HROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE AND GUIDANCE FROM PRAYER. FROM THE VERY FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS THROUGH EVERY FORM OF ADVERSITY AND BLESSING, AMERICANS HAVE FALLEN TO THEIR KNEES AND IMPLORED GOD ALMIGHTY TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES AND TO HEAL THEIR LAND.

THE FREEDOM UPON WHICH AMERICA IS FOUNDED AFFORDS THE RIGHT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL TO DECLINE TO PRAY IF HE OR SHE DESIRES. HOWEVER, THAT SAME FREEDOM ALLOWS THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO UTILIZE THAT GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN OUR NATION.

THE FREEDOM TO PRAY IS NOT DIMINISHED MERELY BECAUSE ONE IS ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THE CLOAK OF AUTHORITY PLACED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF A PUBLIC SERVANT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER TO USE THAT GREAT POWER TO ASK GOD TO BLESS AND SUSTAIN THE NATION THEY LOVE AND SERVE.

CENTURIES AGO, THE BIBLE RECORDS IN 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 THAT GOD TOLD KING SOLOMON:

*"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN MEETING IN ROOM 219 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION. THE GRAVITY OF THIS MEETING WAS DERIVED FROM THE HUMBLE SINCERITY OF THEIR BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS IN AMERICA TO PRAY. THEIR VISION FOR THE CAUCUS INSPIRED THE FORMATION OF SIMILAR CAUCUSES AROUND THE NATION.

AS THIS RESPONSE CONTINUES, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO OUR NATION. THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS IS COMMITTED TO PRAYER AND ACTION TO DEFEND AND PROTECT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR NATION WHO STEPPED OUT BOLDLY TO SECURE THE ONGOING FREEDOM OF ALL AMERICANS.

THREE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WERE NORTH CAROLINIANS: JOSEPH HEWES, WILLIAM HOOPER, AND JOHN PENN, ALL OF WHOM RISKED THEIR REPUTATIONS, FORTUNES, FAMILIES, AND EVEN THEIR LIVES TO TAKE A BRAVE STAND FOR FREEDOM IN THE NEW LAND. THE PREAMBLE TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA BOLDLY ACKNOWLEDGES GRATITUDE TO AND DEPENDENCE ON "ALMIGHTY GOD, THE SOVEREIGN RULER OF NATIONS...FOR THE EXISTENCE OF OUR CIVIL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES."

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN PRAYER AND THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES THAT REMIND US THAT OUR RIGHTS COME FROM ALMIGHTY GOD. ACCORDINGLY, THIS DAY WE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY ISSUE THIS "CALL TO PRAYER" FOR NORTH CAROLINA, AND INVITE NORTH CAROLINIANS EVERYWHERE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS COUNTRY AND THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH IT STANDS, AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

**W**ITNESS THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AS OF THE 20TH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2011.

Rep. Norman Sanderson

Senator Warren David

Rep. H. J. Priddy

Rep. Al Stan  
Mayor Charles Werten

Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry

Congressman Mike McIntyre

Mayor Emery Doughter

Rep. Pat Hurley

Justice Paul Newby

Rep. Bert Jones

Rep. Jeff L. Collin

Beck H. Wood, State Auditor

Phillip Ayres

Barbara Jackson

Marilyn Genila

Steve W. Doss

Robert Blund

NC Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin

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*Stacy L. Jackson*  
*James H. Hogue*  
*Cindy Hamilton*  
*Allan Tyndall*  
*Doris Tyndall*  
*Diana Engel*  
*Milton Parker*  
*Deborah R. Davis*