



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, faith has played a significant role in American history, inspiring many to seek unity through such traditions as days of prayer and reflection; and

Whereas, in this time of global crisis and untold loss we look to our faith for strength and guidance, praying for the health and safety of humankind and the protection of lives, as we ask leaders at all levels of government, business, and the medical community to exercise wisdom in steering us through this present state of emergency and unprecedented challenge, to work in harmony to achieve the best outcomes for all humanity in the days, weeks, and months ahead, and to pursue a thoughtful, positive, cooperative, and constructive course for rebuilding and restoring our nation; and

Whereas, since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked colonists to seek wisdom as they formed a nation, the call to prayer has been echoed throughout American history by such leaders as President Abraham Lincoln, who in 1863 called for a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer," President Harry Truman, who in 1952 signed a joint resolution declaring an annual National Day of Prayer, and President Ronald Reagan, who in 1988 signed into law a bill that provided for the permanent designation of the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, in considering the values we hold highest, we are thankful that the cherished ideals of democracy continue to serve as the foundation of our society, whose strength is its unity, inclusiveness, and the recognition of the dignity and equality of all human beings; and

Whereas, the 69th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed in churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship across the state and nation, and it is fitting that New Yorkers of all faiths and backgrounds join to honor the legacy we share as a nation dedicated to an enduring belief in spiritual freedom as well as all freedoms upon which this nation is founded;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2020 as a

DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth day of April in the year two thousand twenty.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa