

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 84

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS (Sponsor), DAY, KRAUS, STREAM, PRATT, RUESTMAN, GATSCHENBERGER, SCHLOTTACH, TRACY, SCHAD, THOMSON, RUZICKA, MCGHEE, ZERR, ALLEN, SANDER, WRIGHT, BROWN (149), SCHOELLER, FISHER (125), DIECKHAUS, EMERY, AYRES, GRISAMORE, COOPER, DETHROW, LEARA, WETER, HOSKINS (121), NANCE, SATER, FUNDERBURK, HOBBS, SMITH (14), DENISON, KEENEY, LARGENT, MEINERS, LOEHNER, TILLEY, CASEY, BIERMANN, DUSENBERG, MUNZLINGER, POLLOCK, SCHIEFFER, NIEVES, BRUNS, FRANZ, SCHARNHORST, PARSON, PARKINSON, HARRIS, BURLISON, SCHAAF, SUTHERLAND, DEEKEN, DIXON, BIVINS, KINGERY, KOENIG, SELF AND ICET (Co-sponsors).

5520L.04I

**Whereas**, on March 16, 1776, the Continental Congress declared a fast:

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3 "In Congress that Friday, the seventeenth day of May next, be observed by the said  
4 colonies as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer."; and

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6 **Whereas**, the first Continental Congress made a similar declaration in 1777:

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8 "It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United  
9 States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving  
10 and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the  
11 grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their  
12 divine benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and  
13 offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they  
14 had forfeited every favor, and their humble and earnest supplication that it may  
15 please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ..."; and

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17 **Whereas**, in 1789, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was  
18 ratified stating:

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20 "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting  
21 the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right

22 of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of  
23 grievances."; and

24

25 **Whereas**, President Lincoln recognized national prayer in his "Proclamation of  
26 Thanksgiving" on October 3, 1863. In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln invited  
27 fellow citizens to pray and reminded us that we are prone to forget the source of this nation's  
28 blessings. He stated:

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30 "I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also  
31 those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and  
32 observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to  
33 our beneficent Father, who dwelleth in the heavens."; and

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35 **Whereas**, every President since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer  
36 proclamation, resulting in 57 presidential proclamations of a National Day of Prayer; and

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38 **Whereas**, from 1952 to 2009, there have been 135 national calls to prayer,  
39 humiliation, fasting, and thanksgiving by the President of the United States; and

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41 **Whereas**, Wisconsin United States Federal Judge Barbara Crabb ruled in favor of  
42 the Freedom From Religion Foundation which argued that the government setting aside a day  
43 of prayer violates the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution; and

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45 **Whereas**, conservative legal analysts agree that the Establishment Clause of the  
46 United States Constitution is designed to prevent the federal government from establishing a  
47 national church, not to prevent our citizens from respecting our history of the founding of the  
48 Judeo-Christian country:

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50 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
51 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
52 concurring therein, hereby declare our strong stand against judges who seek to strip us of our

53 traditions, our heritage, and our acknowledgment of God Almighty, Creator, and sustainer of the  
54 universe, author of all justice, civility, truth, and source of mercy, grace, and charity; and  
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56 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly is taking notice  
57 and will not tolerate further judicial activism against the citizens of our country in any attempts  
58 to strip us of our First Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

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