
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 306 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, KNOWLES, KRIEGER,
CAUSER, CUTLER, CLYMER, JAMES, ROCK, DIGIROLAMO, KORTZ,
KAUFFMAN, MILNE, MUSTIO, AUMENT, SONNEY, EVERETT, BARRAR,
GROVE, HESS, GINGRICH, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE AND SACCONI,
MAY 7, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 7, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 6 through 12, 2013, as "American
2 Religious History Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Religious faith was not only important in official
4 American life during the periods of discovery, exploration,
5 colonization and growth, but has also been acknowledged and
6 incorporated into all three branches of American Federal
7 Government from their very beginning; and

8 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States affirmed this
9 self-evident fact in a unanimous ruling declaring "This is a
10 religious people ... From the discovery of this continent to the
11 present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The first act of America's first Congress in 1774
14 was to ask a minister to open with prayer and to lead Congress
15 in the reading of four chapters of the Bible; and

16 WHEREAS, The Liberty Bell was named for the Biblical

1 inscription from Leviticus 25:10 emblazoned around it: "Proclaim
2 liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof";
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1782, Congress pursued a plan to print a Bible
5 that would be "a neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use
6 of schools" and therefore approved the production of the first
7 English language Bible printed in America that contained the
8 congressional endorsement that "the United States in Congress
9 assembled ... recommend this edition of the Bible to the
10 inhabitants of the United States"; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in
12 Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin declared, "God governs in the
13 affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground
14 without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise
15 without His aid? ... Without His concurring aid, we shall
16 succeed in this political building no better than the builders
17 of Babel"; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1853, the United States Senate declared that the
19 Founding Fathers "had no fear or jealousy of religion itself,
20 nor did they wish to see us an irreligious people ... they did
21 not intend to spread over all the public authorities and the
22 whole public action of the nation the dead and revolting
23 spectacle of atheistical apathy"; and

24 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1904 and continuing for the next half-
25 century, the Federal Government printed and distributed *The Life*
26 *and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* for the use of Members of
27 Congress because of the important teachings it contained; and

28 WHEREAS, The constitutions of each of the 50 states, either
29 in the preamble or body, explicitly recognize or express
30 gratitude to God; and

1 WHEREAS, President Andrew Jackson declared that the Bible "is
2 the rock on which our Republic rests"; and

3 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln declared that the Bible
4 "is the best gift God has given to men ... But for it, we could
5 not know right from wrong"; and

6 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt not only led the
7 nation in a six-minute prayer during D-Day on June 6, 1944, but
8 he also declared that "If we will not prepare to give all that
9 we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization
10 in our land, we shall go to destruction"; and

11 WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy declared that "The rights
12 of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the
13 hand of God"; and

14 WHEREAS, Every other President has similarly recognized the
15 role of God and religious faith in the public life of America;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, All sessions of the United States Supreme Court
18 begin with the Court's Marshal announcing, "God save the United
19 States and this honorable court"; and

20 WHEREAS, Justice John Jay, an author of the Federalist Papers
21 and original Justice of the United States Supreme Court, urged
22 "The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our
23 civil and religious liberties is always to remember with
24 reverence and gratitude the Source from which they flow"; and

25 WHEREAS, Numerous others of the most important American
26 government leaders, institutions, monuments, buildings and
27 landmarks both openly acknowledge and incorporate religious
28 words, symbols and imagery into official venues; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 week of May 6 through 12, 2013, as "American Religious History

1 Week" for the recognition of the impact of religious beliefs on
2 America's history; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives affirm the rich
4 spiritual and diverse religious history of our nation's founding
5 and subsequent history, including up to the current day; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, The House of Representatives reject, in the
8 strongest possible terms, any effort to remove, obscure or
9 purposely omit such history from our nation's public buildings
10 and educational resources.