

March 26, 2003

Congressman Todd Akin Offers Resolution Calling for Day of Fasting and Prayer in Support of U.S. Troops

WASHINGTON- U.S. Rep Todd Akin today offered House Resolution 153, a measure that calls on the President to declare a day of fasting and prayer to seek God's guidance, strength and protection as our nation engages in conflict with Iraq and seeks to defend against terrorism at home. The final vote for passage is expected sometime tomorrow.

"Throughout our history, America's political leaders have called on the nation to turn to God in times of national crisis," Akin said. "What President Roosevelt said during the Second World War is applicable today: 'We are fighting, as our fathers fought, to uphold the doctrine that all men are equal in the sight of God.' To that end, it is my hope that President Bush will declare a day when all Americans can appeal to our Creator for help, wisdom and safety, for our troops and for our all of our citizens, as we combat a cruel foe so many miles from home and as we safeguard our country from domestic threats, as well."

Following is the text of Akin's resolution:

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings and protection of Providence for the people of the United States and our Armed Forces during the conflict in Iraq and under the threat of terrorism at home.

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a war on terrorism in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States are currently engaged in a campaign to disarm the regime of Saddam Hussein and liberate the people of Iraq;

Whereas, on June 1, 1774, the Virginia House of Burgesses called for a day of fasting and prayer as an expression of solidarity with the people of Boston who were under siege by the enemy;

Whereas, on March 16, 1776, the Continental Congress, recognizing that the 'Liberties of America are imminently endangered' and the need 'to acknowledge the overruling Providence of God', called for a day of 'Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer';

Whereas, on June 28, 1787, during the debate of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin, convinced of God's intimate involvement in human affairs, implored the Congress to seek the assistance of Heaven in all its dealings;

Whereas, on March 30, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, at the bequest of

the Senate, and himself recognizing the need of the Nation to humble itself before God in repentance for its national sins, proclaimed a day of fasting, prayer and humiliation;

Whereas all of the various faiths of the people of the United States have recognized, in our religious traditions, the need for fasting and humble supplication before Providence;

Whereas humility, fasting, and prayer in times of danger have long been rooted in our essential national convictions and have been a means of producing unity and solidarity among all the diverse people of this Nation as well as procuring the enduring grace and benevolence of God;

Whereas, through prayer, fasting, and self-reflection, we may better recognize our own faults and shortcomings and submit to the wisdom and love of God in order that we may have guidance and strength in those daily actions and decisions we must take; and

Whereas dangers and threats to our Nation persist and, in this time of peril, it is appropriate that the people of the United States, leaders and citizens alike, seek guidance, strength, and resolve through prayer and fasting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should issue a proclamation—

- (1) designating a day for humility, prayer, and fasting for all people of the United States; and
- (2) calling on all people of the United States—
 - (A) to observe the day as a time of prayer and fasting;
 - (B) to seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings and to learn how we can do better in our everyday activities; and
 - (C) to gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our Nation.