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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4026

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Lovick, Bush, McMahan, Boldt, Quall, Mielke, Schindler, Hatfield, McDonald, Kristiansen, Talcott, Nixon, Mastin, Pflug, Roach, Priest, Newhouse, Holmquist, Chandler, Bailey and Orcutt

Read first time 04/11/2003.                      Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GARY LOCKE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:  
2            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
3 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
4 represent and petition as follows:  
5            WHEREAS, The United States is currently engaged in a war on  
6 terrorism in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001; and  
7            WHEREAS, The Armed Forces of the United States are currently  
8 engaged in a campaign to disarm the regime of Saddam Hussein and  
9 liberate the people of Iraq; and  
10           WHEREAS, On June 1, 1774, the Virginia House of Burgesses called  
11 for a day of fasting and prayer as an expression of solidarity with the  
12 people of Boston who were under siege by the enemy; and  
13           WHEREAS, On March 16, 1776, the Continental Congress, recognizing  
14 that the "Liberties of America are imminently endangered" and the need  
15 "to acknowledge the overruling Providence of God," called for a day of  
16 "Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer"; and  
17           WHEREAS, On June 28, 1787, during the debate of the Constitutional  
18 Convention, Benjamin Franklin, convinced of God's intimate involvement  
19 in human affairs, implored the Congress to seek the assistance of  
20 Heaven in all its dealings; and

1           WHEREAS, On March 30, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham  
2 Lincoln, at the bequest of the Senate, and himself recognizing the need  
3 of the Nation to humble itself before God in repentance for its  
4 national sins, proclaimed a day of fasting, prayer, and humiliation;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, On March 27, 2003, The House of Representatives of the  
7 Congress of the United States, in the tradition of George Washington  
8 who acknowledged that freedom is the gift of God Almighty and liberty  
9 the greatest of all earthly blessings, passed H. R. 153 by a vote of  
10 369-49 requesting that the President designate a day for humility,  
11 prayer, and fasting for all the people of the United States; and

12           WHEREAS, All of the various faiths of the people of the United  
13 States have recognized, in our religious traditions, the need for  
14 fasting and humble supplication before Providence; and

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

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

24           WHEREAS, Dangers and threats to our Nation persist and, in this  
25 time of peril, it is appropriate that the people of the United States,  
26 leaders and citizens alike, seek guidance, strength, and resolve  
27 through prayer and fasting;

28           NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
29 Governor should issue a proclamation:

30           (1) Designating a day for humility, prayer, and fasting for all  
31 people of Washington State; and

32           (2) Calling on all people of Washington State:

33           (a) To observe the day as a time of prayer and fasting;

34           (b) To seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of  
35 our own failings and to learn how we can do better in our everyday  
36 activities; and

37           (c) To gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our  
38 Nation.

1       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
2 transmitted to the Honorable Gary Locke, Governor of the State of  
3 Washington.

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