

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 24

By: McIntosh

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution commemorating America's 250th birthday
and her guiding foundational principles.

WHEREAS, celebrating 250 years since America's founding, this
Legislature acknowledges and remembers the guiding and foundational
principles and truths that have established and given birth to
America's freedom and success as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence boldly and clearly
identified the political philosophy of America when it stated: "We
hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created
equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain
unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the
pursuit of Happiness", acknowledging and enshrining into our
nation's founding document the foundational truth that our rights
come from God, the Creator; and

WHEREAS, the core political beliefs of the founding fathers
included: ordered liberty; equality; natural rights, including

1 defense of self, community, and nation; freedom of speech and press;
2 and the free exercise of religion; and

3 WHEREAS, the founding fathers recognized historical events and
4 texts—such as the Ten Commandments; the Mosaic Law; the New
5 Testament; the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and
6 Romans; the English Common Law; the Magna Carta; and the English
7 Bill of Rights—as a basis for American law and public policy; and

8 WHEREAS, America was founded as a constitutional republic,
9 establishing separation of powers and federalism under a written
10 constitution, and thereby avoiding the fatal tendencies of a
11 democracy; and

12 WHEREAS, in moments of hardships and success, America's people
13 have historically turned to God, the giver of their rights, to give
14 thanks and seek protection and guidance; and

15 WHEREAS, at Cape Henry Landing in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607,
16 Rev. Robert Hunt and the original Jamestown settlers erected a cross
17 and had a prayer ceremony dedicating the new land to the Lord in
18 what is considered the first English Christian worship service in
19 America; and

20 WHEREAS, as depicted in the United States Capitol rotunda
21 painting, the Pilgrims gathered around an open Bible, where they
22 learned principles that characterize America like republican
23 government, religious liberty, and equality; and

1 WHEREAS, the Pilgrims hosted the first Thanksgiving celebration
2 in America in 1621, to give thanks to God for bringing them native
3 friends and allies, and helping them survive the first winter with
4 hopes that they might prevail again in the coming winter,
5 establishing a national practice upheld today; and

6 WHEREAS, the First Great Awakening (1730-1770), led by leaders
7 such as George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, and Samuel Copper,
8 helped provide the foundation upon which American independence was
9 later erected; and

10 WHEREAS, in the first-ever Congress in 1774, at the
11 recommendation of Samuel Adams, the Rev. Jacob Duche was asked to
12 open the body in prayer, reading from the scriptures; and

13 WHEREAS, since America's founding, government-issued calls to
14 prayer have been integral to public proceedings, including 15
15 Continental Congress calls during America's War for Independence for
16 days of fasting, humiliation, prayer, and days of thanksgiving, a
17 practice continued by presidents, governors, and legislatures; and

18 WHEREAS, on April 30, 1789, President George Washington's
19 inauguration preparations were made by Congress, with the
20 cooperative help of a body of 14 clergy, including ministers from
21 different denominations and a Rabbi. Religious activities at the
22 inauguration included Bible-based oath, prayers, and worship
23 services, with one-third of his inaugural address reflecting God's
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1 providential role; many inauguration traditions were continued by
2 subsequent presidents; and

3 WHEREAS, beginning in 1800, weekly church services were held in
4 the United States Capitol building, where Thomas Jefferson
5 faithfully attended services throughout his eight years of
6 presidency and other presidents, senators, and representatives
7 likewise went to church at the Capitol; and

8 WHEREAS, the Second Great Awakening, in the early 19th century,
9 led by figures like Harry Hoosier, Lemuel Haynes, Andrew Bryan,
10 Francis Asbury, and Charles Finney, inspired reforms including
11 abolition, temperance, and women's rights; and

12 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln's call for a day of
13 humiliation, fasting, and prayer on March 30, 1863, focused on
14 correcting the spiritual condition of the American people in the
15 midst of the nation tearing itself apart in the Civil War; Lincoln
16 called on the people to examine their own relationship with God and
17 His Scriptures, and conform their lives to that standard; and

18 WHEREAS, on February 12, 1865, Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, the
19 first Black American to speak in Congress, preached a sermon on the
20 floor of Congress to celebrate the 13th Amendment's passage, enacted
21 two weeks earlier to abolish slavery; and

22 WHEREAS, from 1774 to the present, the government has produced
23 military Bibles and more than 67 versions of the Bibles and Armed
24 Forces Prayer Books have been officially distributed to soldiers,
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1 sailors, and airmen as a source of spiritual strength and
2 encouragement, including in every conflict from the American War for
3 Independence to the War on Terror; and

4 WHEREAS, President Franklin Roosevelt, when he announced the
5 active invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944, during World War II, led the
6 American people in a 6-minute prayer on behalf of the safety of the
7 troops who, at that very moment, were unloading and under fire; he
8 also prayed for the success of the operation; and

9 WHEREAS, Dwight Eisenhower started the National Prayer Breakfast
10 and added "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, added "In God We
11 Trust" to all currency, made "In God We Trust" the National Motto,
12 and facilitated the addition of a Prayer Room in the United States
13 Capitol; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr., jailed in Birmingham
15 for defying a policy banning unpermitted gatherings, penned his
16 Letter From a Birmingham Jail, defending nonviolent action against
17 injustice with historical precedents from church leaders,
18 reinforcing the moral and religious duty to confront wrong; and

19 WHEREAS, America's history from the past 250 years has been
20 marked by the prevalence of faith and divine providence, and her
21 history affirms a clear and firm reliance on God and the Bible.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
23 OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT this state reaffirms its commitment to the principles
2 upheld in the Declaration of Independence, that we are endowed by
3 the Creator with inalienable rights, and it is with a firm reliance
4 on the protection of divine providence that we mutually pledge
5 together our lives and fortunes and sacred honor in preservation of
6 America and her next 250 years.

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