

American Humanist Association

ACTION ALERT



Dear Friend,

Today President Obama will issue a proclamation recognizing the National Day of Prayer, a day that promotes the benefits of prayer and calls on Americans to pray.

Many Americans, [especially the 20% who are nonreligious](#), oppose the President asking for nationwide prayer not only because it is a violation of church-state separation, but because it excludes humanist, atheist, and nontheist Americans from a civic holiday.

This exclusionary practice is one of the reasons humanist communities across the country will instead celebrate the [National Day of Reason](#) today. **Established to celebrate reason as the guiding principle of our secular democracy**, the National Day of Reason is about including humanist, atheist, and nontheist Americans that feel left out on National Day of Prayer through community events like charity blood drives, outdoor picnics and movie screenings.

This year, thanks to the AHA's lobbying efforts and supporters like you, Representative Mike Honda (CA), Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), and other elected officials on the state and local levels issued a statement or proclamation recognizing the National Day of Reason.

"The National Day of Reason celebrates the application of reason and the positive impact it has had on humanity," Rep. Michael Honda [declared](#) in the Congressional record. "It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the Constitutional separation of religion and government."

"I encourage all citizens to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems for the welfare of humanity," Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton said in a statement.

Thank Representative Honda for his efforts to include the non-religious community and protect the separation of church and state. [Please take a moment to thank Rep. Honda and ask that he continue to fight against exclusion on the basis of religious belief.](#)

Humanist, atheist, and nontheist Americans need reasonable public officials like Rep. Honda and Del. Norton if we want to stop the Religious Right from making their religious beliefs into law. **[Stand up for church-state separation and thank Rep. Honda for his support of the National Day of Reason.](#)**

Sincerely,

Roy Speckhardt
Executive Director

P.S. I need your help to spread the word about the National Day of Reason today. Use the hashtag [#NationalDayofReason on Twitter](#) and share [National Day of Reason images on Facebook](#).

American Humanist Association – National Day of Reason, 5-2-13

With faith-based initiatives giving preferential treatment to religious organizations, and strengthened attempts to introduce creationism in public school science classrooms, there has never been a better time in which humanists, atheists and freethinkers should affirm our commitment to the Constitutional separation of religion and government, and to celebrate reason as the guiding principle of our secular democracy.

As in previous years, this year's National Day of Reason is scheduled to coincide with the Congressionally-mandated and federally-supported National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, 2013. The American Humanist Association encourages all who value the separation of religion and government to join us in commemorating the Day of Reason, and in building awareness for this important cause.

What can you do to demonstrate your support for a Day of Reason?

- Plan a special event to commemorate the NDR, such as a protest demonstration, special lecture, or social gathering
- Lobby for a Day of Reason proclaimed by your state or local government
- Hold a press conference for your local media to promote respect for the separation of religion and government, and to draw attention to the many breaches of that principle during recent months
- Organize a letter-writing campaign urging your elected officials to support the separation of religion and government

Visit <http://www.nationaldayofreason.org> to sign-up as an endorser, view planned events, or read some of the media coverage from previous years.

Let us know about your plans to commemorate the National Day of Reason by emailing AHA Communications Associate Brian Magee at bmagee@americanhumanist.org, or post your photos and ideas on the [AHA's Facebook page](#) or [National Day of Reason's Facebook page](#).