

WASHINGTON (April 21) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today expressed his strong support for the National Day of Prayer in response to a ruling by a federal judge declaring it unconstitutional.

Bachus spoke in defense of the National Day of Prayer at a news conference attended by more than 30 Members of Congress. Bachus is an original sponsor of two pieces of legislation designed to preserve an observance that has had long-time bipartisan support. The first (H. Res. 1279) calls for an appeal of the ruling by the Jimmy Carter-appointed judge, and the second (H. Res. 1273) affirms the constitutional and historical significance of the day and America's religious heritage.

Congressman Bachus said, "Presidents as different as Thomas Jefferson, a Democrat, and Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, agreed on the importance of prayer in American life. Prayer has long brought us together as a nation. It is an essential part of our heritage, which is evident from the religious inscriptions that can be seen throughout the U.S. Capitol. It is very disturbing to me that we have a judge who wanted to make law, instead of applying the Constitution. This ruling should be appealed, and we should respectfully observe this year's National Day of Prayer on May 6 as usual."

Last Friday, Bachus wrote to President Obama, urging the Justice Department to appeal the ruling and requesting a National Day of Prayer event be held at the White House as was the practice under President Bush. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

Bachus is a member of the House Prayer Caucus.