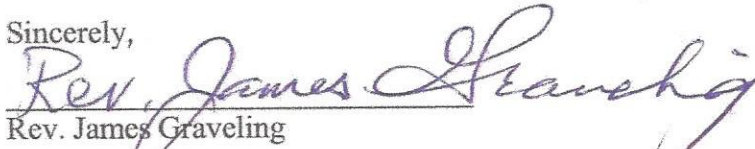


when His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

I and others with me earnestly pray that you will stand for righteousness and justice.

Sincerely,


Rev. James Graveling

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Endnote:

To America's fathers the Source of all human rights, government authority and the universe was none other than the Creator God of the Christian Bible. America's fathers believed in God and considered a theistic worldview critical to a proper understanding of his life and the world. In their own words: *"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. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."* They considered God the Giver of human rights; the Supreme Lawgiver ("the laws of nature and of nature's God"), the Supreme Judge of men's souls and of nations ("appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions"), and the Supreme Ruler of all ("with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence"). The Declaration clearly implies all are required to keep His law, are subject to His sanctions, and are under His all controlling providence through which He will enforce His will. It declares human government a servant to God's purpose to guard the rights God gave men. God then was ultimate Author and Father of every good thing. As Lawgiver, declaring what is right and wrong; as Judge, observing men and nations in history and bringing sanctions (positive or negative) to them; as King ruling over all and enforcing His revealed will. A theistic worldview permeated the Declaration and was presupposed as foundational to the Constitution. American government presupposes our Maker as the Source of life and all good (rights, etc), as our Judge to whom we are all ultimately accountable and as our King whose protection and blessing we cannot afford to be without, whose anger we dare not arouse. For this reason we find quotes of the fathers warning of woe to those who fear Him not and blessing to those who do. We find many recorded instances of their urging their fellow Americans as well as those who did not know the Word and gospel to learn about and turn to Jesus for refuge from their sins and to receive His favor. Beyond dispute, the fathers meant by "Creator" the Triune God of the Christian Bible. Congress' very first prayer prayed to their "Creator", asked Him for things the Declaration declares Him directly involved in: ruling, delivering the righteous and punishing the unrighteous. During King George III's assault on American's rights at Boston, the fathers united in prayer to this God and clearly manifest which God they meant: *"these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressors and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee."* This prayer was a declaration and covenant between them (as America's representatives) and God. Rev. Duche as well led the fathers in a fervent imprecatory prayer based on Psalm 35 earnestly crying out for deliverance on the basis of Messiah's merits from oppressor's rod. The prayer ended with these revealing words: *"All this we ask In the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."* Attendee Sam Adams recorded how all in attendance were greatly stirred and moved in a sense of God's Spirit's presence through and in Rev. Duche's strong, earnest prayer: "Letter of John Adams to Abigail Adams, September 16th, 1774 Philadelphia Sept. 16, 1774: "Having a Leisure Moment, while the Congress is assembling, I gladly embrace it to write you a Line. When the Congress first met, Mr. Cushing made a Motion, that it should be opened with Prayer. It was opposed by Mr. Jay of N. York and Mr. Rutledge of South Carolina, because we were so divided in religious Sentiments, some Episcopalians, some Quakers, some Anabaptists, some Presbyterians and some Congregationalists, so that We could not join in the same Act of Worship.-Mr. S. Adams arose and said he was no Bigot, and could hear a Prayer from a Gentleman of Piety and Virtue, who was at the same Time a Friend to his Country. He was a Stranger in Phyladelphia, but had heard that Mr. Duche (Dushay they pronounce it) deserved that Character, and therefore he moved that Mr. Duche, an episcopal Clergyman, might be desired, to read Prayers to the Congress, tomorrow Morning. The Motion was seconded and passed in the Affirmative. Mr. Randolph our President, waited on Mr. Duche, and received for Answer that if his Health would permit, he certainly would. Accordingly next Morning he appeared with his Clerk and in his Pontificalibus, and read several Prayers, in the [3] established Form; and then read the Collect for the seventh day of September, which was the Thirty fifth Psalm. -You must remember this was the next Morning after we heard the horrible Rumour, of the Cannonade of Boston.-I never saw a greater Effect upon an Audience. It seemed as if Heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read on that Morning. After this Mr. Duche, unexpected to every Body struck out into an extemporary Prayer, which filled the Bosom of every Man present. I must confess I never heard a better Prayer or one, so well pronounced. Episcopalian as he is, Dr. Cooper himself never prayed with such fervour, such Ardor, such Earnestness and Pathos, and in Language so elegant and sublime-for America, for the Congress, for The Province of Massachusetts Bay,

and especially the Town of Boston. It has had an excellent Effect upon every Body here. I must beg you to read that Psalm. If there was any Faith in the sortes Virgilianae, or sortes Homericae, or especially the Sortes biblicae, it would be thought providential. It will amuse your Friends to read this Letter and the 35th. Psalm to them. Read it to your Father and Mr. Wibirt.-I wonder what our Braintree Churchmen would think of this?-Mr. Duche is one of the most ingenious Men, and best Characters, and greatest orators in the Episcopal order, upon this Continent-Yet a Zealous Friend of Liberty and his Country. I long to see my dear Family. God bless, preserve and prosper it. Adieu. John Adams" (source: <https://williamdbailey.wordpress.com/category/christian-nation-2/>). See also "First Prayer of the Continental Congress, Office of the Chaplain" accessed at <http://chaplain.house.gov/archive/continental.html>.

Verification

Purpose of Notary is for identification only, and NOT for entrance into any Foreign- Jurisdiction.

State alabama }
 } to-wit:
county saint clair }

I, the undersigned Notary Public, certify that James Graveling who is known to me and whose name is signed to the foregoing instrument or conveyance, before me on this 9th day of Oct in the year of the Lord Jesus 2015 freely signed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed of his own free will.

Witness my hand and official seal:

Betty Joyce Brasher
Signature of Notary Public

My commission expires Nov. 8. 2016

Seal

