

No. 17-5278

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

DANIEL BARKER,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

PATRICK CONROY, *et al.*,

Defendants-Appellees.

On Appeal from a Final Judgment of the
United States District Court for the District of Columbia
Case No. 1:16-cv-00850-RMC, Hon. Rosemary M. Collyer

**AMENDED BRIEF OF AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF
CHURCH AND STATE; AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION; ANTI-DEFAMATION
LEAGUE; CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS; INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE FOUNDATION; JEWISH SOCIAL POLICY ACTION NETWORK;
MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM; NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN;
SIKH AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND; SIKH
COALITION; UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM; UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION; AND WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM AS *AMICI CURIAE*
SUPPORTING APPELLANT AND REVERSAL**

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**CERTIFICATE AS TO PARTIES, RULINGS,
AND RELATED CASES**

Parties and Amici

All parties, intervenors, and *amici* appearing before the district court and in this Court are listed in the Brief for Appellant, except for the following:

- American Atheists, Inc.;
- American Humanist Association;
- Americans United for Separation of Church and State;
- Anti-Defamation League;
- American Ethical Union;
- Center for Inquiry;
- Central Conference of American Rabbis;
- Interfaith Alliance Foundation;
- Jamie Raskin;
- Jared Huffman;
- Jewish Social Policy Action Network;
- Mark Pocan;
- Men of Reform Judaism;
- National Council of Jewish Women;
- Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund;
- Sikh Coalition;
- Union for Reform Judaism;
- Unitarian Universalist Association; and

- Women of Reform Judaism.

Rulings Under Review

References to the rulings at issue appear in the Brief for Appellant.

Related Cases

To *amici's* knowledge, this case has not previously been before this Court or any other court, and there are no related cases pending in this Court or in any other court.

CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Amici are all nonprofit organizations. They have no parent corporations, and no publicly held corporation owns any portion of any of them.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a national, nonsectarian, nonpartisan educational and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the constitutional principle of church–state separation as the only way to ensure freedom of religion, including the right to believe or not believe, for all Americans.

The **American Ethical Union** is a national federation of Ethical Societies, which are nontheistic religious congregations. Founded in 1889, the AEU has 24 member groups in 12 states and the District of Columbia, and over 2,300 members and supporters.

Anti-Defamation League was organized in 1913 to advance good will and mutual understanding among Americans of all creeds and races and to combat racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice in the United States. Today, ADL is one of the world’s leading organizations fighting hatred, bigotry, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

Interfaith Alliance Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 that celebrates religious freedom by championing

individual rights, promoting policies to protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism. Its members belong to 75 different faith traditions as well as no faith tradition.

The **Jewish Social Policy Action Network** is a membership organization of American Jews dedicated to protecting the constitutional liberties and civil rights of Jews, other minorities, and the weak in our society.

National Council of Jewish Women is a grassroots organization of 90,000 volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund envisions a United States where *all* Americans are respected and recognized as a vibrant and integral part of the fabric of this nation. For more than 20 years we have provided a strong voice that advocates on behalf of *all* Americans to counter negative stereotypes and misrepresentations.

The Sikh Coalition is a community-based civil-rights organization that defends civil liberties, including religious freedom, for

all Americans. Its mission is to promote educational awareness and advocacy and provide legal representation in moving toward a world where Sikhs and other religious minorities may freely practice their faith without bias or discrimination.

The **Union for Reform Judaism** consists of 900 congregations across North America that include 1.5 million Reform Jews; the **Central Conference of American Rabbis** includes more than 2,000 Reform rabbis; the **Women of Reform Judaism** represent more than 65,000 women in nearly 500 women's groups in North America and around the world; and the **Men of Reform Judaism** stimulate men's fellowship, interest in Jewish worship, Jewish studies, *Tikkun Olam*, and service to the Jewish community and the community at large. These four organizations have a longstanding commitment to the principle of separation of church and state, believing that the First Amendment to the Constitution is the bulwark of religious freedom and interfaith amity.

The **Unitarian Universalist Association** comprises more than 1,000 Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide and is dedicated to the principle of separation of church and state.

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IDENTITY AND INTERESTS OF *AMICI CURIAE*¹

The *amici curiae*—who are described in the Corporate Disclosure Statement above (*see* Circuit Rule 26.1(b))—consist of theistic religious organizations, nontheistic religious organizations, and civil-liberties organizations. Though they have different perspectives on matters of faith, *amici* all agree that one’s rights and privileges should never depend on what one believes about the divine, and therefore that the honor of appearing before Congress to solemnize its sessions should be available not only to people who believe in God but also to people who do not. For when government conditions participation in its affairs on religious tests, it threatens the freedom of conscience of all, not just those whom it now expressly excludes.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The framers of the First Amendment recognized that governmental preference for any religion leads to religious strife and oppression while also weakening and corrupting the favored faith. The First Amendment’s Establishment Clause therefore prohibits

¹ No counsel for a party authored this brief in whole or in part. No party or party’s counsel—and no person other than *amici*, their members, or their counsel—contributed money intended to fund the brief’s preparation or submission. All parties have consented to the filing of this brief.

government from favoring any religion over another or over nonreligious belief systems. The Supreme Court has applied this principle in the legislative-prayer context to hold that governmental officials must not discriminate based on religion in selecting guest chaplains.

Yet the Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives has done exactly that by prohibiting atheist and Humanist leader Dan Barker from serving as a guest chaplain before the House. The federal courts, the U.S. military, and other federal departments have repeatedly recognized atheism, Humanism, and other nontheistic belief systems as religions entitled to equal treatment under the Establishment Clause. The House Chaplain's exclusionary conduct therefore violates the prohibition against favoring one religion over another. And even if Mr. Barker's beliefs did not as a matter of law warrant the same treatment as a traditional religion or denomination, the House Chaplain's discrimination would still violate the principle that government must not favor religion over nonreligion.

What is more, the Establishment Clause prohibits governmental officials from becoming entangled in theological inquiry, which degrades both government and religion. But the test that the House Chaplain

used to reject Mr. Barker necessitates such improper governmental entanglement: To decide who may serve as a guest chaplain, the House Chaplain determines whether candidates were ordained by a recognized religious body, continue to practice the faith in which they were ordained, and will invoke a higher power. Such inquiries into the internal workings of religious organizations, the personal religious practices of individuals, and the nature of a higher power are far beyond the proper role of government.

The district court concluded that the House Chaplain's discriminatory and entangling conduct was constitutional, largely because the court assumed that legislative prayers must appeal to a divine authority. That assumption is wrong: The Supreme Court has recognized that prayers and invocations may be nontheistic. And in recent years, numerous nontheists have delivered moving and inspiring nontheistic invocations to state legislatures and municipalities throughout the country.

The district court also referenced history in support of its ruling, but historical analysis cannot justify the House Chaplain's discriminatory policy. When Congress enacted its chaplaincy, it aspired toward diversity, requiring that the House and Senate chaplains be of

different denominations and that the chaplains rotate between the two chambers. Today, with nontheists representing approximately a tenth of America's population and serving in Congress and state legislatures, fulfilling that aspiration calls for inclusion of nontheists as guest chaplains. Any argument that the traditionally theistic nature of legislative invocations can support exclusion of nontheists today would equally justify exclusion of non-Protestants, for all Congressional chaplains were Protestants during the historical period relevant to ascertaining the intent of the Establishment Clause's framers. Of course, the Supreme Court does not tolerate such use of history to legitimize discrimination.

This Court should reverse the dismissal of the complaint and permit the case to proceed.

ARGUMENT

The Establishment Clause prohibits the House Chaplain from rejecting proposed guest chaplains based on their lack of belief in God.

A. Excluding nontheists from the guest chaplaincy violates the Establishment Clause’s prohibition against religious discrimination.

1. The Establishment Clause prohibits religious discrimination in the selection of guest chaplains.

The Framers of our Constitution abhorred governmental preferences for any religious belief, most of all when such preferences limited participation in governmental affairs. James Madison wrote, “Whilst we assert for ourselves a freedom to embrace, to profess and to observe the Religion which we believe to be of divine origin, we cannot deny an equal freedom to those whose minds have not yet yielded to the evidence which has convinced us.” James Madison, *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments* ¶ 4 (1785), <http://bit.ly/2pPvjz5>. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed, “our civil rights have no dependance on our religious opinions . . . therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence by laying upon him an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion,

is depriving him injuriously of those privileges and advantages to which, in common with his fellow citizens, he has a natural right.” Thomas Jefferson, *A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom* (1785), <http://bit.ly/1lfgdjl>. Madison and Jefferson explained that governmental favoritism toward any religion “degrades from the equal rank of Citizens all those whose opinions in Religion do not bend to those of the Legislative authority,” triggers religious strife, opens the door to broader religious discrimination, and weakens and corrupts the preferred faiths. See Madison, *supra*, ¶¶ 3, 6, 9, 11; Jefferson, *supra*.

“[T]he views of Madison and Jefferson . . . came to be incorporated . . . in the Federal Constitution.” *Sch. Dist. v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203, 214 (1963). The Supreme Court has thus repeatedly held that the Establishment Clause prohibits government from “favor[ing] one religion over another, or religion over [non]religion.” *McCreary Cty. v. ACLU of Ky.*, 545 U.S. 844, 875 (2005); *accord id.* at 860; *Larson v. Valente*, 456 U.S. 228, 244 (1982); *Epperson v. Arkansas*, 393 U.S. 97, 104 (1968).

The Supreme Court has reiterated this antidiscrimination principle in its legislative-prayer decisions. In *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, which upheld a town board’s policy of opening meetings with

invocations that contained references to particular faiths, the Court emphasized that the town’s “leaders maintained that a minister or layperson of any persuasion, including an atheist, could give the invocation.” 134 S. Ct. 1811, 1816 (2014); *accord id.* at 1824. The Court made clear that governmental entities must “maintain[] a policy of nondiscrimination” in deciding who may present invocations, and that the selection of guest chaplains must “not reflect an aversion or bias on the part of [governmental] leaders against minority faiths.” *Id.* at 1824; *see also id.* at 1826 (plurality opinion²) (“A practice that classified citizens based on their religious views would violate the Constitution”); *id.* at 1831 (Alito, J., concurring) (“I would view this case very differently if” minority faiths had been omitted “intentional[ly]” rather than “careless[ly]”). Similarly, in *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, 793 (1983), the Court warned that a legislature’s choice of a legislative chaplain must not “stem[] from an impermissible motive” to “giv[e] preference to his religious views.” *See also Pelphrey v. Cobb Cty.*, 547 F.3d 1263, 1281–82 (11th Cir. 2008) (county commission violated

² As the narrowest ground for the relevant portion of the judgment, the plurality section of the *Greece* opinion represents controlling precedent under *Marks v. United States*, 430 U.S. 188, 193 (1977).

Establishment Clause by discriminating based on religion in selection of guest chaplains).

2. Nontheistic belief systems such as atheism and Humanism are religions protected by the Establishment Clause’s anti-discrimination principle.

Prohibiting Mr. Barker from serving as a guest chaplain on account of his nontheistic³ beliefs violates the rule that government must not favor some religions over others. Mr. Barker identifies as an atheist and a Humanist; in addition to being ordained as a Christian minister, he was ordained by the American Humanists as a Humanist Officiant. (Appellant’s App. at 68.) Federal jurisprudence establishes that atheism and Humanism⁴—as well as other nontheistic belief

³ Though there are different definitions of the terms “theist” and “nontheist,” here we use “theist” to refer to someone who holds a “belief in the existence of a god or gods” and “nontheist” to refer to “a person who does not believe that there is a god or gods.” See *Theism*, Merriam-Webster, <https://bit.ly/2wEHPJR> (last visited May 16, 2018); *Nontheist*, Merriam-Webster, <https://bit.ly/2L0IIzJ> (last visited May 16, 2018).

⁴ “Humanism encompasses a variety of nontheistic views (atheism, agnosticism, rationalism, naturalism, secularism, and so forth) while adding the important element of a comprehensive worldview and set of ethical values—values that are grounded in the philosophy of the Enlightenment, informed by scientific knowledge, and driven by a desire to meet the needs of people in the here and now.” *About the American Humanist Association*, American Humanist Association, <http://bit.ly/2HeSDyS> (last visited May 16, 2018).

systems represented by some of the *amici*, such as Ethical Culture⁵ and Unitarian Universalism⁶—are religions protected by the Constitution.

In *Torcaso v. Watkins*, 367 U.S. 488, 495 & n.11 (1961), the Supreme Court held that government must not “aid those religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against those religions founded on different beliefs,” and the Court specifically identified Humanism, Ethical Culture, Buddhism, and Taoism as “[a]mong religions in this country which do not teach what would generally be considered a belief in the existence of God.” Accordingly, federal and state appellate courts have repeatedly ruled that atheism, Humanism, and other nontheistic belief systems are religions for purposes of the Constitution, civil-rights laws, and tax laws. *See, e.g., Kaufman v.*

⁵ Ethical Culture, also known as Ethical Humanism, “is a humanist Movement focusing on human goodness and building ethical relationships with each other and the Earth.” *Mission & Vision*, American Ethical Union, <http://bit.ly/2FAuO7y> (last visited May 16, 2018).

⁶ Unitarian Universalism is a “liberal religious tradition” that welcomes both theists and nontheists, while “affirm[ing] and promot[ing] seven Principles.” *See History of Unitarian Universalism*, Unitarian Universalist Association, <http://bit.ly/2oScL2M> (last visited May 16, 2018); *We Welcome People with Many Beliefs*, Unitarian Universalist Association, <http://bit.ly/2FnBYsq> (last visited May 16, 2018); *Our Unitarian Universalist Faith*, Unitarian Universalist Association, <http://bit.ly/2FkqE4i> (last visited May 16, 2018); *The Seven Principles*, Unitarian Universalist Association, <http://bit.ly/2CQPwee> (last visited May 16, 2018).

McCaughtry, 419 F.3d 678, 682 (7th Cir. 2005) (“[t]he Supreme Court has recognized atheism as equivalent to a ‘religion’ for purposes of the First Amendment on numerous occasions”); *Glassroth v. Moore*, 335 F.3d 1282, 1294 (11th Cir. 2003) (“The Supreme Court has instructed us that for First Amendment purposes religion includes non-Christian faiths and those that do not profess belief in the Judeo-Christian God; indeed, it includes the lack of any faith.”); *Reed v. Great Lakes Cos.*, 330 F.3d 931, 934 (7th Cir. 2003) (“atheism is indeed a form of religion” for purposes of Title VII); *United States v. Moon*, 718 F.2d 1210, 1227 (2d Cir. 1983) (pointing to “the Unitarian Church” among examples of “religions which do not positively require the assumption of a God” for First Amendment purposes); *Therriault v. Silber*, 547 F.2d 1279, 1281 (5th Cir. 1977) (holding that definition of “religion” that excludes atheism or agnosticism is “too narrow” for Free Exercise and Establishment Clause purposes); *Wash. Ethical Soc’y v. District of Columbia*, 249 F.2d 127, 129 (D.C. Cir. 1957) (Burger, J.) (holding that Ethical Culture congregation constituted “a religious corporation or society” under tax law); *Strayhorn v. Ethical Soc’y of Austin*, 110 S.W.3d 458, 468–72 (Tex. App. 2003) (holding that “Ethical Culture qualifies as a religion for First Amendment purposes”).

Federal departments likewise recognize atheism, Humanism, and other nontheistic belief systems as religions. For example, the Department of Defense recognizes atheism, agnosticism, Humanism, and Unitarian Universalism as “faith groups” for servicemembers.⁷ The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes atheist, Humanist, and Unitarian Universalist symbols as “emblems of belief” available for placement on government-furnished headstones for deceased veterans.⁸ The Bureau of Prisons recognizes Humanism as a religious preference for inmates.⁹ And the I.R.S. recognizes the Humanist Society (which ordains Humanist clergy¹⁰) and the American Ethical Union (which ordains Ethical Culture clergy¹¹) as religious organizations.¹²

⁷ Memorandum from Lernes J. Hebert, Acting Deputy Assistant Sec’y of Def. for Military Pers. Policy, to various Dep’t of Def. officials 1, 6–7 (Mar. 27, 2017), <http://bit.ly/2qk8vYu>.

⁸ *Available Emblems of Belief for Placement on Government Headstones and Markers*, National Cemetery Administration, <http://1.usa.gov/1ElvZM8> (last visited May 16, 2018).

⁹ Steven DuBois, *Federal Prisons Agree to Recognize Humanism as Religion*, AP (July 28, 2015), <http://bit.ly/2EANnnJ>.

¹⁰ *See Become a Humanist Celebrant*, The Humanist Society, <https://bit.ly/2Hrthhq> (last visited May 17, 2018).

¹¹ *See Meet Our Leaders*, American Ethical Union, <https://bit.ly/2HTJw8i> (last visited May 17, 2018).

¹² *See* Letter from Robert C. Padilla, Manager, Customer Serv., I.R.S., to Humanist Society of Friends (Dec. 28, 1999), <http://bit.ly/2HDqy1O> (stating that Humanist Society is classified as an organization

Recognizing that the Establishment Clause prohibits religious discrimination in the selection of guest chaplains, and that “atheism and Humanism [are] religions entitled to First Amendment protection,” a federal district court recently held that a county board violated the Establishment Clause by discriminating against atheists and Humanists in determining who could present opening invocations at board meetings. *See Williamson v. Brevard Cty.*, 276 F. Supp. 3d 1260, 1276–77, 1281, 1289 (M.D. Fla. 2017), *appeal docketed*, No. 17-15769 (11th Cir. Dec. 29, 2017), *cross-appeal docketed*, No. 18-10109 (11th Cir. Jan. 11, 2018). And another federal district court recently denied a motion to dismiss in a similar case against the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. *See Fields v. Speaker of the Pa. House of Representatives*, 251 F. Supp. 3d 772, 788–89 (M.D. Pa. 2017). Here too, the Establishment Clause forbids the House Chaplain to exclude nontheists based on their religious beliefs.

described in I.R.C. § 170(b)(1)(A)(i), which provides tax-exempt status to “church[es] or . . . convention[s] or association[s] of churches”); Letter from Holly O. Paz, Dir., Exempt Orgs. Rulings and Agreements, I.R.S., to American Ethical Union (Mar. 22, 2013), <https://bit.ly/2IkpzuM> (similar letter for American Ethical Union).

3. Even if atheism and Humanism were not entitled to treatment as religions, government must not favor religion over nonreligion.

But even if atheism and Humanism were not considered to be religions under the law, discriminating against atheists and Humanists in the selection of guest chaplains would still be unconstitutional. The Establishment Clause prohibits the government from favoring not only “one religion over another” but also “religion over [non]religion.”

McCreary, 545 U.S. at 875; accord *Epperson*, 393 U.S. at 104. In *Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock*, 489 U.S. 1, 14–15 (1989), for instance, the Supreme Court struck down a tax exemption for religious periodicals because it was denied to nonreligious publications. And in *Estate of Thornton v. Caldor, Inc.*, 472 U.S. 703, 709–10 & n.9 (1985), the Court invalidated a law that gave religious adherents a right not to work on their Sabbaths, in part because the law did not give nonreligious employees any comparable right to a day off of their choosing. In other words, governmental bodies cannot “constitutionally pass laws or impose requirements which aid all religions as against non-believers.” *Torcaso*, 367 U.S. at 495.

This principle applies with full force to the selection of guest chaplains. In *Greece*, the Supreme Court rejected the proposition that

legislative-prayer practices are immune from general Establishment Clause rules and are to be measured solely against historical tradition. The Court cautioned that its legislative-prayer precedents “must not be understood as permitting a practice that would amount to a constitutional violation if not for its historical foundation.” 134 S. Ct. at 1819; *see also infra* at 25, 30–31. The Court then cited cases concerning other Establishment Clause issues to support rulings that governmental bodies must not discriminate based on religion when selecting invocation-speakers (*see supra* at 6–7), must not become entangled in religious judgments when implementing an invocation practice (an issue we discuss in Part B below), and must not coerce people to participate in invocations. *See Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1822, 1825–26 (plurality opinion at 1825–26) (citing *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290 (2000); *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992); *Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962); *Torcaso*, 367 U.S. 488).

To be sure, the Court has held that government may treat religion differently from nonreligion for the limited purpose of “alleviat[ing] exceptional government-created burdens on private religious exercise.” *Cutter v. Wilkinson*, 544 U.S. 709, 720 (2005). For example, religious organizations may be given special exemptions from employment-

discrimination laws to prevent improper governmental interference with their internal affairs. *See, e.g., Corp. of Presiding Bishop v. Amos*, 483 U.S. 327, 339 (1987). But this principle cannot justify discrimination against nontheists in the selection of guest chaplains, because such discrimination does not lift any government-created burden on the religious exercise of members of Congress, who are free to attend services reflecting their specific beliefs in numerous houses of worship in and near the District of Columbia. *See Katcoff v. Marsh*, 755 F.2d 223, 238 (2d Cir. 1985).

Moreover, a religious accommodation must not “impose unjustified burdens on other[s]” (*Cutter*, 544 U.S. at 726), and exclusion of nontheistic guest chaplains harms not only the applicants themselves—in part by marking them as “‘outsiders, not full members of the political community’” (*see McCreary*, 545 U.S. at 860 (quoting *Santa Fe*, 530 U.S. at 309))—but also nontheist members of Congress. There are at least two current and two former openly nontheist members of the U.S. House.¹³ Many state legislators around the country also have come out

¹³ *See* Shadee Ashtari, *Barney Frank Explains Why He Hid His Atheism*, HuffPost (June 10, 2014), <http://bit.ly/2oRoKhm>; Michelle Boorstein, *This Lawmaker Isn't Sure That God Exists. Now, He's Finally Decided to Tell People*, Wash. Post, Nov. 9, 2017,

as nontheists.¹⁴ And there is evidence that numerous other members of Congress are nontheists but fear to disclose their beliefs publicly,¹⁵ for polls show that a large percentage of Americans would not vote for an atheist.¹⁶

“The principal audience for [legislative] invocations is . . . lawmakers themselves, who may find that a moment of prayer or quiet reflection sets the mind to a higher purpose and thereby eases the task of governing.” *Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1825 (plurality opinion). Fulfilling that purpose of legislative prayer supports occasional invocations by nontheistic guest chaplains, so that nontheistic legislators can fully be included in and benefit from the practice. Indeed, *Greece* emphasized that the “purpose and effect” of a legislative-invocation practice must not be “to exclude or coerce nonbelievers.” *Id.* at 1827 (plurality

<http://wapo.st/2DcCNSF>; Kimberly Winston, *Arizona Democrat to Replace Defeated Pete Stark as Sole Atheist in Congress*, Wash. Post, Nov. 8, 2012, <http://wapo.st/2oXTADW>; see also Tara Isabella Burton, *The Latest Faith Group to Launch a Congressional Caucus? The Nonreligious*, Vox (May 1, 2018), <https://bit.ly/2IGTNaM>.

¹⁴ See *Secular Elected Officials*, Center for Freethought Equality, <https://bit.ly/2Kmu5FF> (last visited May 17, 2018).

¹⁵ See Brian Pellot, *Atheist Politicians May Run the UK, but They Remain Closeted in the US*, Wash. Post, Aug. 22, 2014, <http://wapo.st/2DbF3tm>.

¹⁶ See Jeffrey M. Jones, *Atheists, Muslims See Most Bias as Presidential Candidates*, Gallup (June 21, 2012), <http://bit.ly/2Fsxe4B>.

opinion). Thus, whether the beliefs of nontheists are considered “religions” or not, excluding nontheists from the guest chaplaincy violates the Establishment Clause’s antidiscrimination principles.

B. The House Chaplain’s policy for selecting guest chaplains necessitates improper religious inquiries by government.

In addition to the prohibitions against religious discrimination, the House Chaplain’s conduct violates the Establishment Clause’s bar against religious entanglement. Jefferson wrote, “to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty.” Jefferson, *supra*; accord Madison, *supra*, ¶¶ 2, 5, 11. The Supreme Court has thus repeatedly held that the Establishment Clause prohibits governmental bodies from becoming excessively entangled with religion, including through inquiries into or judgments about religious matters. *See, e.g., Hernandez v. Comm’r*, 490 U.S. 680, 696–97 (1989); *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 620–22 (1971). In *Greece*, the Court applied this principle to reject a claim that invocations at legislative meetings must be nonsectarian, explaining that such a requirement would cause public officials to become “supervisors and

censors of religious speech” and thus would improperly “involve government in religious matters.” 134 S. Ct. at 1822.

The test that the House Chaplain has been using to determine who may serve as a guest chaplain and to exclude Mr. Barker inherently leads the House to become entangled in inappropriate religious inquiries and judgments, in three ways.

First, the House requires that a guest chaplain “be ordained by a recognized body.” (Appellant’s App. at 66.) This requirement invades the internal affairs of religious organizations by calling for governmental judgments about the theological standing of a proposed chaplain’s ordaining authority. What is more, the requirement discriminates against adherents of faiths that do not ordain clergy, such as Muslims,¹⁷ certain Buddhists,¹⁸ Baha’is,¹⁹ and Quakers.²⁰

Second, the House requires that a guest chaplain’s ordination be “in the faith in which he/she practices.” (Appellant’s App. at 66.) This requirement calls for intrusive inquiries into the personal beliefs and practices of guest-chaplain nominees.

¹⁷ See John Renard, *101 Questions and Answers on Islam* 45 (1998).

¹⁸ See, e.g., *Introduction to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism*, World Tribune, <http://bit.ly/2FrtOyU> (last visited May 16, 2018).

¹⁹ See Paula Hartz, *Baha’i Faith* 104 (3d ed. 2009).

²⁰ See Hans J. Hillerbrand, *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* 801 (2004).

Third, the House requires that a guest chaplain’s invocation address a divine “higher power.” (Appellant’s App. at 38 ¶ 35(3); 52 ¶ 146; 54–55 ¶¶ 157, 168; 57 ¶ 180.) But just like the attempts to delineate whether prayers are sectarian that the *Greece* Court concluded were “difficult[],” “futil[e],” and unconstitutional (134 S. Ct. at 1822), inquiries into whether proposed invocations address a supernatural higher authority can be challenging or unanswerable, calling for judgments that are beyond the constitutional authority and competency of government. Consider Addendum B to this brief, which contains many invocations, given in recent years in the Connecticut Senate, that do not expressly mention a supreme being but could be construed—or not, depending on the listener—as implicitly addressing one. Neither *amici*, nor the House Chaplain, nor the courts are qualified to decide whether invocations of this type—*e.g.*, “May we be filled with kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy.” (Addendum B at 6)—address a divine higher authority.²¹

²¹ The constitutional problems here are compounded by the complaint’s allegations that the House Chaplain’s criteria for determining who may serve as a guest chaplain have not been uniformly applied but instead served as a pretext to exclude Mr. Barker. (Appellant’s App. at 49–53 ¶¶ 118–56.)

C. The assumptions underlying the district court's decision are wrong.

In spite of substantial allegations of unconstitutional religious discrimination and entanglement, the district court dismissed the complaint, based in large part on two assumptions: that legislative prayers must be theistic (*see* Appellant's App. at 18–19, 25–26), and that history supports excluding nontheists (*see id.* at 7–8, 10–11, 19, 26). Both assumptions are incorrect.

1. Legislative invocations need not be theistic.

Dictionary definitions and case law confirm that an “invocation” or “prayer”—words that *Greece* used interchangeably (*see* 134 S. Ct. at 1816–27)—need not be theistic. Black's Law Dictionary defines “invocation” as “the act of calling on for authority or justification.” *Invocation*, Black's Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014). Merriam-Webster defines the term as “the act of mentioning or referring to someone or something in support of your ideas.” *Invocation*, Merriam-Webster, <http://bit.ly/1Rua0bP> (last updated May 14, 2018). And Oxford Dictionaries' definition is “[t]he action of invoking something or someone for assistance or as an authority.” *Invocation*, Oxford Dictionaries, <http://bit.ly/1WXISf2> (last visited May 16, 2018).

“Prayer” isn’t necessarily theistic either. It may be “an earnest request or wish.” *See Prayer*, Merriam-Webster, <http://bit.ly/1TLTnyb> (last visited May 16, 2018); *see also Prayer*, Oxford Dictionaries, <http://bit.ly/1sdhYkU> (last visited May 16, 2018) (“an earnest hope or wish.”). Or it may be “a request for specific relief.” *See Prayer for Relief*, Black’s Law Dictionary.

Consistent with these definitions, the Supreme Court recognized in *Greece* that legislative prayers may be nontheistic. Under the Town of Greece’s policy, the Court emphasized, “an atheist[] could give the invocation.” 134 S. Ct. at 1816; *accord id.* at 1826 (plurality opinion) (“here, any member of the public is welcome in turn to offer an invocation reflecting his or her own convictions”); *id.* at 1829 (Alito, J., concurring) (“the town . . . would permit any interested residents, including nonbelievers, to provide an invocation”). The Court also noted that a “*religious* invocation” is the kind that is unconstitutionally coercive in the public-school context. *Id.* at 1827 (plurality opinion) (emphasis added).

Further, in describing the “constraints . . . on [the] content” of legislative prayers, the Court did not include any requirement that they be theistic. *Id.* at 1823. Rather, the Court explained that invocations

should “lend gravity to the occasion,” “reflect values long part of the Nation’s heritage,” be “solemn and respectful in tone,” “invite[] lawmakers to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends before they embark on the fractious business of governing,” and not “denigrate nonbelievers or religious minorities, threaten damnation, . . . preach conversion,” or “‘proselytize or advance any one, or . . . disparage any other, faith or belief.’” *Id.* (quoting *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 794–95).

Proper invocations, added the Court, “often seek peace for the Nation, wisdom for its lawmakers, and justice for its people, values that count as universal and that are embodied not only in religious traditions, but in our founding documents and laws.” *Id.* And while “religious themes provide particular means to [such] universal ends,” appropriate invocations may instead “invoke[] universal themes . . . by,” for example, “celebrating the changing of the seasons or calling for a ‘spirit of cooperation’ among [governmental] leaders.” *Id.* at 1823–24 (quoting an invocation given in the Town of Greece).

Thus, in recent years, nontheists have opened sessions of many governmental bodies across the country, delivering inspiring and moving nontheistic invocations that called on the kinds of nontheistic authorities and values approved of in *Greece*—such as the Constitution,

democracy, equality, inclusion, and justice. (*See* Addendum A.) Here is but one example delivered to the Arizona House by then-Representative Juan Mendez:

Most prayers in this room begin with a request to bow your heads. I would like to ask that you not bow your heads. I would like to ask that you take a moment to look around the room at all of the men and women here, in this moment, sharing together this extraordinary experience of being alive and of dedicating ourselves to working toward improving the lives of the people in our state.

This is a room in which there are many challenging debates, many moments of tension, of ideological division, of frustration. But this is also a room where, as my Secular Humanist tradition stresses, by the very fact of being human, we have much more in common than we have differences. We share the same spectrum of potential for care, for compassion, for fear, for joy, for love.

Carl Sagan once wrote, “For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love.” There is, in the political process, much to bear. In this room, let us cherish and celebrate our shared humanness, our shared capacity for reason and compassion, our shared love for the people of our state, for our Constitution, for our democracy—and let us root our policymaking process in these values that are relevant to all Arizonans regardless of religious belief or nonbelief. In gratitude and in love, in reason and in compassion, let us work together for a better Arizona.

(*Id.* at 1–2.) Other governmental bodies that have welcomed invocations by nontheists include the Florida House, the Iowa House, the Maine House and Senate, the Maryland Senate, the Pennsylvania Senate, the

Washington State House, and the councils of major cities such as El Paso and Orlando. (*Id.* at 1–11, 13–14, 16–18.) In addition, officers of the Connecticut Senate often open its sessions with invocations that are nontheistic or arguably so. (*See* Addendum B.) And the U.S. House of Representatives itself recently permitted a Presbyterian minister to open a session with a prayer that had no theistic references. *See* 161 Cong. Rec. H5878 (daily ed. Sept. 10, 2015). The district court’s assumption that legislative prayers must be theistic flies in the face of modern practice.²²

2. History does not justify discrimination against nontheists in the selection of guest chaplains.

The district court’s assumption that history supported its dismissal of the complaint (Appellant’s App. at 7–8, 10, 19, 26) was constitutionally flawed and not based on any significant analysis of the pertinent history. In fact, history does not justify exclusion of nontheists from service as guest chaplains.

²² Any suggestion that legislative prayers must be theistic made in *Kurtz v. Baker*, 829 F.2d 1133, 1143 (D.C. Cir. 1987)—a case, on which the district court significantly relied (*see* Appellant’s App. at 9, 18–19, 26), that decided nothing beyond standing—is not binding on this Court given *Greece*’s subsequent recognition to the contrary and the rise of nontheistic invocations across the country.

To begin with, as noted above, the Supreme Court has cautioned that its legislative-prayer precedents “must not be understood as permitting a practice that would amount to a constitutional violation if not for its historical foundation.” *Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1819. “Standing alone, historical patterns cannot justify contemporary violations of constitutional guarantees.” *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 790. Rather, the Court’s decisions to uphold opening invocations at legislative sessions were based on an “‘unambiguous and unbroken history of more than 200 years’” going back to the passage of the Bill of Rights. *Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1819 (quoting *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 792). The Court has reasoned that because in 1789 the First Congress enacted a congressional chaplaincy the same week that it approved the First Amendment, the Amendment’s framers must have believed that the Establishment Clause permits legislative invocations. *Id.* at 1818–19; *Marsh*, 463 U.S. at 787–92.

But there is no long and unbroken history going back to 1789 of Congress inviting members of the public to deliver invocations while discriminating based on creed or belief in doing so. Except for several years in the middle of the Nineteenth Century, the U.S. House and

Senate have always appointed permanent chaplains.²³ And there is no evidence that either chamber of Congress ever invited guest chaplains to deliver invocations before 1855.²⁴ Further, after extensive research, *amici* have found no evidence that any nontheist ever asked to give an opening invocation to any governmental body in the decades that followed adoption of our Constitution. That is not surprising: Few people during that era openly disclosed that they did not believe in God, for doing so could result not just in social ostracism but in criminal punishment.²⁵ As Congress did not use guest chaplains during the Founding Era, and nontheists did not make requests to present legislative invocations then, history cannot support exclusion of nontheistic guest chaplains today.²⁶

²³ See *History of the Chaplaincy*, Office of the Chaplain: U.S. House of Representatives, <http://bit.ly/2w1wNqH> (last visited May 18, 2018); *Senate Chaplain*, U.S. Senate, <http://bit.ly/2em2A0L> (last visited May 18, 2018).

²⁴ See 2 Robert C. Byrd, *The Senate, 1789–1989* 302 (1982), <http://bit.ly/2oU3mbg>.

²⁵ See, e.g., Leigh Eric Schmidt, *Village Atheists: How America's Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation* 3–4 (2016); Amanda Porterfield, *Conceived in Doubt: Religion and Politics in the New American Nation* 14–42 (2012).

²⁶ As Justice Alito explained in his concurrence in *Greece*, it is only early Congressional history that should matter, not the history of state legislatures' practices. See 134 S. Ct. at 1832 (Alito, J., concurring). The

If history has anything to tell on this issue, it supports permitting legislative invocations that reflect diverse and minority beliefs. “Our tradition assumes that adult citizens . . . can tolerate and perhaps appreciate a ceremonial prayer delivered by a person of a different faith.” *Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1823. To promote religious diversity in the invocations that it heard, when Congress first enacted its chaplaincy it required that the House and Senate chaplains be of different denominations and that they rotate between the two chambers. *See* 110

Establishment Clause did not apply to the states from the time when the First Amendment was ratified until it was incorporated against them in the 1940s through the Fourteenth Amendment. *See, e.g., Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 49 (1985). So Founding-era practices at the state level cannot speak to how the Framers understood the Establishment Clause. *See County of Allegheny v. ACLU Greater Pittsburgh Chapter*, 492 U.S. 573, 670 n.7 (1989) (Kennedy, J., concurring in the judgment in part and dissenting in part). Indeed, when the Bill of Rights was adopted, and in the decades that followed, many states had established churches, religious tests for office, and other constitutional provisions that discriminated based on religion—practices that unquestionably violate the Establishment Clause. *See, e.g., Stanley F. Chyet, The Political Rights of the Jews in the United States: 1776–1840*, American Jewish Archives, Apr. 1958, at 24–67, <http://bit.ly/2Fp6eCZ>. In all events, like Congressional history, Founding-era state-legislative history cannot support exclusion of nontheistic guest chaplains today because the state legislatures did not use guest chaplains. In the decades after enactment of the Bill of Rights, state legislatures used permanent chaplains, relied on a limited number of rotating local clergy, or did not have opening prayers at all. *See James S. Kabala, “Theocrats” vs. “Infidels”: Marginalized Worldviews and Legislative Prayer in 1830s New York*, *Journal of Church and State*, Winter 2009, at 91–92, 100–01.

Cong. Rec. 3176 (1964). At that time, in practice, this rule served to ensure diversity among Protestant denominations, because almost everyone in the country was Protestant.²⁷

We are a much more pluralistic nation today. Thus Congress properly “acknowledges our growing diversity . . . by welcoming ministers of many creeds,” including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Native American invocation-speakers. *See Greece*, 134 S. Ct. at 1820–21.²⁸ But the House still falls short: Today, nontheists represent at least nine percent of the American population.²⁹ Accordingly, as noted above, nontheists have in recent years delivered numerous nontheistic invocations before state legislatures and local governmental bodies across the country. (See Addendum A.) The growing acceptance of nontheistic invocations today effectuates the aspiration toward

²⁷ See, e.g., Fr. Robert J. Fox, *The Catholic Church in the United States of America*, Catholic Education Resource Center (2000), <https://bit.ly/2HXOdhi>; *Vital Statistics: Jewish Population in the United States, Nationally (1654–Present)*, Jewish Virtual Library, <http://bit.ly/2wLKNej> (last visited May 18, 2018).

²⁸ See also Byrd, *supra*, at 304.

²⁹ See Pew Research Center, *U.S. Public Becoming Less Religious* 47–48 (2015), <http://pewrsr.ch/1SETWFd>; see also Pew Research Center, *America’s Changing Religious Landscape* 4 (2015), <http://pewrsr.ch/1rfd46z>.

diversity reflected in the “different denominations” rule that Congress enacted at the inception of its chaplaincy.

A review of the annual messages to Congress of our first six Presidents—the equivalent of today’s State of the Union addresses—also supports inclusion of nontheistic invocations. Most of those annual messages had some theistic reference—usually of thanks or entreaty—but some did not.³⁰ And in 1823, President James Monroe, after recounting various successes of our country, ended his annual message with a secular missive of thanks after it appeared that he was leading up to a theistic one:

To what, then, do we owe these blessings? It is known to all that we derive them from the excellence of our institutions. Ought we not, then, to adopt every measure which may be necessary to perpetuate them?

James Monroe, *Seventh Annual Message* (1823), <http://bit.ly/2G8n3Dp>.

To contend that exclusion of nontheistic invocations is supported by a lack of evidence—apart from the above-quoted Monroe address—of such invocations during the Founding Era would prove too much:

Historians believe that no non-Christian ever gave an opening prayer to

³⁰ See *State of the Union Addresses and Messages*, The American Presidency Project, <http://bit.ly/M9VL27> (last visited May 18, 2018).

Congress before 1860 or to any state legislature before 1850.³¹

Furthermore, there is at least circumstantial evidence of religion-based discrimination against Catholics in Congress's selection of legislative chaplains throughout much of American history, including as late as the year 2000.³² Indeed, until 2000, except for one Catholic who served for only a year (from 1832–33), all of Congress's permanent chaplains were Protestants.³³

Thus, if a lack of nontheistic invocations in early American history could support a bar on nontheists serving as guest chaplains today, history would equally support exclusion of all non-Christians and even of non-Protestants. Of course, that would be contrary to the law: *Greece* held that the selection of invocation-speakers must reflect a “policy of nondiscrimination,” not “aversion or bias on the part of [governmental] leaders against minority faiths.” 134 S. Ct. at 1824. And whatever role history may play in constitutional interpretation, the Supreme Court has repeatedly rejected efforts to use history to justify discriminatory

³¹ See Bertram W. Korn, *Eventful Years and Experiences: Studies in Nineteenth Century American Jewish History* 98–99, 114–15 (1954), <http://bit.ly/2G8eqsE>.

³² See Christopher C. Lund, *The Congressional Chaplaincies*, 17 Wm. & Mary Bill of Rts. J. 1171, 1187–93 (2009).

³³ See *id.* at 1187–96.

policies. *See, e.g., Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584, 2603 (2015); *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515, 531 (1996); *Harper v. Va. State Bd. of Elections*, 383 U.S. 663, 669 (1966); *see also McDaniel v. Paty*, 435 U.S. 618, 623–24, 629 (1978) (striking down state constitutional provision prohibiting ministers from holding legislative offices even though many states maintained such provisions when U.S. Constitution was adopted).

CONCLUSION

The Constitution prohibits the House Chaplain—just like all other governmental officials—from discriminating based on religion. It is no more constitutionally permissible to exclude the one-tenth of Americans who are nontheists from eligibility to solemnize sessions of Congress than it would be to exclude Jews, Muslims, Hindus, or Sikhs from the guest chaplaincy based on disapproval of their beliefs. In Madison’s words, such discrimination is a “signal of persecution” that “degrades from the equal rank of Citizens all those whose opinions in Religion do not bend to those of the Legislative authority.” *See Madison, supra*, ¶ 9. The Court should reverse the judgment below.

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This brief complies with the word limit of Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(5) and 32(a)(7)(B) because, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Rule 32(f), it contains 6,487 words.

This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Rule 32(a)(5) and the type-style requirements of Rule 32(a)(6) because it has been prepared using Microsoft Word 2013 in 14-point Century Schoolbook font.

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CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY OF SEPARATE BRIEFS

I certify that separate briefs are necessary for some groups of the *amici* supporting the plaintiff-appellant in this case because of differences in the *amici*'s interests and positions.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 22, 2018, I filed this brief through the Court's CM/ECF system, which caused the brief to be electronically served on all parties, through the following counsel:

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No. 17-5278

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

DANIEL BARKER,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

PATRICK CONROY, *et al.*,

Defendants-Appellees.

On Appeal from a Final Judgment of the
United States District Court for the District of Columbia
Case No. 1:16-cv-00850-RMC, Hon. Rosemary M. Collyer

**ADDENDA TO BRIEF OF AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF
CHURCH AND STATE; AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION; ANTI-DEFAMATION
LEAGUE; CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS; INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE FOUNDATION; JEWISH SOCIAL POLICY ACTION NETWORK;
MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM; NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN;
SIKH AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND; SIKH
COALITION; UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM; UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION; AND WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM AS *AMICI CURIAE*
SUPPORTING APPELLANT AND REVERSAL**

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ADDENDUM A

Selected Nontheistic Invocations Presented by Nontheists to State and Local Governmental Bodies Across the United States

(In some cases, the cited transcriptions have been edited for punctuation, for formatting, or to correct transcribing errors.)

Alabama

Dearly Beloved,

When the ancients considered the values that were proper and necessary for the good governance of a peaceful, productive society, they brought to our minds the virtues of wisdom, courage, justice, and moderation. These values have stood the test of time.

In more recent days, an American style of governance had led to approbation for newer enlightened values; we celebrate diversity, we enjoy protections of our freedoms in a constitutional republic, and we dearly value egalitarianism—equal protection of the law.

So now let us commence the affairs that are presented to our community. Let doubt and skepticism and inquiry be on our lookout when caution is the appropriate course. But also let innovation and boldness take point when opportunities for excellence appear on our horizon.

In this solemn discourse, let's remember Jefferson's words:

that Truth is great, and will prevail if left to herself, that she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error, and has nothing to fear from the conflict, unless by human interposition disarmed of her natural weapons free argument and debate, errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them.

Let it be so.

Kelly McCauley, Invocation Before Huntsville, Alabama, City Commission (Sept. 25, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2INtKic>.

Arizona

Most prayers in this room begin with a request to bow your heads. I would like to ask that you not bow your heads. I would like to ask that you take a moment to look around the

room at all of the men and women here, in this moment, sharing together this extraordinary experience of being alive and of dedicating ourselves to working toward improving the lives of the people in our state.

This is a room in which there are many challenging debates, many moments of tension, of ideological division, of frustration. But this is also a room where, as my Secular Humanist tradition stresses, by the very fact of being human, we have much more in common than we have differences. We share the same spectrum of potential for care, for compassion, for fear, for joy, for love.

Carl Sagan once wrote, “For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love.” There is, in the political process, much to bear. In this room, let us cherish and celebrate our shared humanness, our shared capacity for reason and compassion, our shared love for the people of our state, for our Constitution, for our democracy—and let us root our policymaking process in these values that are relevant to all Arizonans regardless of religious belief or nonbelief. In gratitude and in love, in reason and in compassion, let us work together for a better Arizona.

Juan Mendez, Invocation Before Arizona House of Representatives (May 21, 2013), <https://bit.ly/2k4rUeH>.

In keeping with the spirit of the Opening Prayer during which we make a petition honoring our most sacred beliefs, I share with you a poem I adapted after hearing it from someone I respect—a prayer from my Humanist worldview that appeals to all our common humanness:

Today I ask for us all
the grace to shout
the grace to shout when it hurts,
even though silence is expected of us,

And the grace to listen when others shout
though it be painful to hear,

The grace to object, to protest, when we feel, taste or observe
injustice

believing that even the unjust and arrogant
are human nonetheless

and therefore are worthy of strong efforts to reach them.

Do not choose a path that leads to the heart of despair
but choose to fill yourself with courage and understanding,

Choose to be that person who knows very well
when the moment has come to protest.

I ask for us all the grace to be angry
when the weakest are the first to be exploited
and the trapped are squeezed for their meager resources,
when the most deserving are the last to thrive,
and the privileged demand more privilege.

I ask that we seek the inspiration we find inside each other
to make our voices heard
when we have something that needs to be said,
something that rises to our lips despite the fear that was
created in hopes to silence us,
to make us feel unwelcomed.

Audre Lorde, writer and civil rights activist asked us,
To remember that when we are silent we are still afraid
So it is better to speak
remembering
we were never meant to survive.

And so in closing I ask for us all to have the grace to listen
when the many finally rise to speak and their words are an
agony for us.

Juan Mendez, Invocation Before Arizona House of Representatives
(Mar. 3, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2rPbJGn>.

Florida

Through the millennia we as a society have learned the best
way to govern the people is for the people to govern

themselves. Today, in this tradition, we travel from our homes and businesses across the county; citizens, staff, and those elected converge on this chamber to work as one community united and indivisible by nearly every measure. Each of us arrives as individuals with unique ideas and experiences but all with a need or, in a spirit of goodwill, to fulfill the needs of others.

Citizens request assistance and offer their concerns and we are ever grateful for their interest and for their trust in the process. Staff provides invaluable expertise in their particular field and we truly appreciate their continued service. Elected officials listen, debate, and choose the path forward for us all out of a sincere desire to serve and honor the people of Osceola County while shaping its future. We all offer our thanks in that often thankless task.

When we leave this chamber this evening let us carry with us this same spirit of service and goodwill tomorrow and every day that follows.

This is how we assemble to serve and to govern ourselves.

David Williamson, Invocation Before Osceola County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners (June 16, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2KuukOX>.

Let us give thanks for all that we have, cherish and possess—especially for the capacity to care and love, to improve ourselves, our families and community.

Whatever one's viewpoint, either derived from faith or from reason informed by science, having the capacity to appreciate and thank others is ingrained in the DNA of the human condition.

We give thanks to the volunteers, the heart and soul of our community, who donate their time and talents to help the less fortunate.

And, in this setting, let's recognize and laud the sacrifices made by many government workers, especially firefighters

and police officers who risk their lives to safeguard others, no matter where residents live or if they are rich or poor.

Understanding the awesome responsibility of public service, we thank you, the mayor and city council members, for using compassion and fairness, and for not acting for personal gain, or out of fear or favor.

As citizens and voters, we possess great hope that our elected officials make choices that give all people in this community, to the extent they can, an opportunity to achieve the American dream—and to help build a greater Orlando.

Chris Allen, Invocation Before Orlando, Florida, City Council (June 23, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2Iq0rCY>.

It is an honor to represent your humanist, atheist and other nonreligious constituents and colleagues with a secular invocation.

Those you serve, and those around us today, include people of different cultures and races, gender identities, levels of financial stability and backgrounds. They vary in physical and cognitive abilities. They speak many languages. They include people of many faiths and non-faith perspectives.

The deliberations in this chamber are of the highest consequence to the people of Florida. As you work together toward solutions that address challenges facing our state, may you have the fortitude to make difficult choices while holding the needs of the diverse public at the forefront of your decisions.

While we are diverse, we are united by our common humanity.

As we seek to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this month, I am reminded of his words: “The time is always right to do what is right.”

May your leadership be guided by integrity and compassion to uplift all people today and every day of this legislative session.

Thank you for your service and your work today to make a positive, meaningful difference for all.

Tee Rogers, Invocation Before Florida House of Representatives (Jan. 11, 2018), <https://bit.ly/2GsCUv9>.

Illinois

Let us rise each morning, and strive each day, to do only that which brings happiness and joy to others, and avoid doing things that cause others hurt and pain.

Let us use our minds and our reason to encourage behavior based on the mutuality and reciprocity inherent in human relationships, and let us always respect the dignity and worth of each other.

And let us, above all, love one another, not to obtain rewards for ourselves now or hereafter or to avoid punishment, but rather always to bring each other contentment and peace.

So be it.

Ted Utchen, Invocation Before Wheaton, Illinois, City Council (June 2, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2wQkEwb>.

Iowa

Rather than asking guidance from anyone or anything today, let us instead take a moment to reflect, and to see who and what is right before us.

As a Humanist, it is not part of my sincerely-held belief to close my eyes in deference to a deity, but rather to look at the people around me and to appreciate how important all of us are to each other. Please take a moment to look around at all the people in this room. Without any judgment, try to see

them as simply your fellow Iowans, your fellow Americans, your fellow human beings—all doing the best they can to traverse the trials and the joys of this human life.

Now, imagine the more than three million people of this state the same way, without judgment. See the men, women, and children of all races, cultures, and belief systems. Look at individuals of different sexual identities and orientations. Notice people of all different levels of physical, emotional, and mental wellness and ability. Recognize people of different socioeconomic levels and political inclinations.

I could go on and on, because this is a diverse state and it's becoming more so every day. If there's any place all people should be able to find respect and inclusion it is here, in this House that represents all Iowans. We each face the consequences of our decisions and actions every day, and for Humanists, this immediacy is particularly important because we don't think in terms of waiting for an afterlife to atone for whatever wrongs we have done. We believe we must do good right now, because this is the only opportunity we have. For most of us, the consequences of our decisions and actions affect only ourselves or a small number of people around us. But Humanists recognize that, as legislative representatives, you bear the added responsibility of making decisions that will affect each and every one of those more than three million diverse individuals.

The positive and negative consequences of these decisions are profound. Today and every day, Iowans hope that you see them, that you respect them, that you acknowledge them, and that you will use reason, compassion, empathy, and a desire to be forces of good in the world to guide your decisions and your actions. Let today not only be a day of reason on the Hill, but also a day of reflection and renewal of the commitment we all have to each other to respect our shared humanity and to move forward with a greater understanding of how our actions impact everyone.

And we ask these things in the name of good.

Roxanne Gissler, Invocation Before Iowa House of Representatives
(Apr. 17, 2017), <https://bit.ly/2pSh5Ny>.

Maine

Good morning. I am Tom Waddell, president of the Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Thank you all for the personal sacrifices each of you have made to be a member of the Maine House. Your personal commitment to Maine's future is much appreciated. And thank you for the opportunity to give the first of many inspiring secular invocations to the Maine House.

Traditionally, invocations have served to encourage lawmakers to put aside political differences and, under the guidance of a higher power, work together for the common goal of making Maine a better place for all of its citizens.

This secular invocation will be no different, but I will not ask you to bow your heads to a higher power. Instead, I ask you to look around at the learned men and women assembled here today, and rely on your collective character, honesty and integrity for guidance in making decisions that fulfill the intent of the Maine Constitution, specifically "to promote our common welfare."

Every member here was elected to represent the interests of a diverse community in terms of age, socioeconomic status, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and religious beliefs or secular principles. Representing diverse constituents requires one to be truly inclusive and tolerant. All of your constituents want the same things: economic opportunity, decent housing, good schools and a healthcare system that meets the needs of all people living in Maine. We never argue about these common goals, what we argue about is the strategy we use to attain them.

I ask you then to put aside any personal and political differences in these divisive times and to work together for

the benefit of Maine as a whole. I ask you to use facts, reason and logic, tempered with compassion and empathy, in making your decisions, today and every day. I ask you to discard partisan dogma and to weigh, without bias, the merits of the various proposals being made, and to refrain from denigrating persons with whom you may disagree.

Finally, in the words of a Buddhist homily,

May you become at all times, both now and forever: A protector for those without protection; A guide for those who have lost their way; A ship for those with oceans to cross; A bridge for those with rivers to cross; A sanctuary for those in danger; A lamp for those without light; A place of refuge for those who lack shelter; And a servant to all those in need.

Thank you.

Tom Waddell, Invocation Before Maine House of Representatives (Feb. 7, 2017), <https://bit.ly/2wP78ZN>.

Good morning. I am Tom Waddell. I'm the president of the Maine Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. We support everyone's religious freedom by advocating for separation of church and state.

As you fulfill the Senate's solemn responsibility of making decisions that will affect everyone living here in Maine, I urge you to rely on and trust in the collective character, honesty, and integrity of your colleagues for guidance today and every day.

The wisdom of our Founding Fathers has much to rely on as well. I would like to invoke the words of two American presidents. Thomas Jefferson reminds us that the purpose of government is to enable the people of our nation or state to live in safety and happiness: "Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors." And John Quincy Adams inspires us with, "If your actions inspire

others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

Thank you for your sacrifices each of you have made to be a member of the Maine Senate. We, the people of Maine, appreciate and rely on your collective wisdom and the personal commitments you have made to Maine’s future.

Thank you.

Tom Waddell, Invocation Before Maine Senate (Feb. 15, 2018), <https://bit.ly/2IMKMNs>.

Maryland

Thank you, Senator Raskin, for the invitation to offer this morning’s invocation. Thank you all for welcoming me and so many others into this chamber.

We come here today from many places and by many paths. Yet we all cherish certain shared ideals that draw us together in this place to toil for the wellbeing of all the people of this beloved land that we call our home. Dear senators, you all and I myself are among the most fortunate citizens of this great state. Let us work together and with the less fortunate who seek our aid. Mindful of the many others unable to be here with us, let us work together to help all our neighbors progress, especially those in need and crisis. I offer this meditation on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Thus, I invoke his legacy of expanding freedom and justice. Let us keep blazing, carry forth, and pass along his torch to the generations whose future we now help steward and cultivate.

From wherever we each may draw inspirations to work for the common good, our collective deeds must find their roots in whatever sources of hope and love that may sustain us and enable us to face the great challenges of our world. We here all believe that we can each do our part working with one another to improve life for the diverse spectrum of people that comprises our communities. We all believe that

together we can and must engage in such labors of love using our human compassion, experience, and reasoning, our mutually respectful discourse and deepest listening, and our own diligent endeavors that merge with those of so many others. May our efforts this day and every day help bring us all closer to realizing the visions of justice and harmony and progress that are at the heart of the democratic ideals that unite us. May it be so. May we all strive together to make it so. Amen.

Binyamin Biber, Invocation Before Maryland Senate (Feb. 12, 2015), *in* VII Md. Sen. Journal of Proceedings, 2015 Reg. Sess., 30, <https://bit.ly/2o2bK7k>.

New York

Freethinkers, atheists, nonbelievers, whatever label you wish, this group comprises a significant part of our population. I am honored to be providing an invocation on their behalf, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Town of Greece.

On July 4th, 1776, the 56 men who pledged their lives to the document that changed the course of history agreed to the central tenet that “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

More than 238 years later, the central premise still echoes, however faintly, from the town hall to the white-columned halls of Washington. Yet this premise, this foundation necessary for a free and flourishing society, is today, more than ever, under assault. This central pillar of a free society, this notion that is deeply heretical to authoritarian culture, proclaims that it is from the people that moral authority is derived. It is that within us, the citizens, that knowledge and wisdom must emerge.

The preservation of this premise does not come from accepting the status quo, but by asserting our rights and exercising our duties. That this premise still endures

testifies to its truth, and we can say with confidence that it is in seeking the counsel of our conscience that we find the beginning of wisdom. It is in the exercise of our duty as citizens that we find the beginning of knowledge.

We, as citizens, the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega of our destiny, are not, as the great philosopher Immanuel Kant warned, mere means to the ends of another, but we are ends in ourselves.

This basic premise, this profound idea, guides us such that we need not kneel to any king, and we need not bow to any tyrant.

So I ask all officials present here, as guarantors of our Founders' revolutionary proclamation, to heed the counsel of the governed, to seek the wisdom of all citizens, and to honor the enlightened wisdom and the profound courage of those 56 brave men.

Dan Courtney, Invocation Before Greece, New York, Town Board (July 15, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2rQAH7G>.

North Carolina

As the council gathers here to make laws affecting the people of Wilmington I ask you to lift your heads, to open your eyes and open your hearts. Our most serious duty is to look to the community we share, the examples we make, and the legacies we leave. That should be our greatest, most courageous and noble intention. Let this be our most constant success.

Han Hills, Invocation Before Wilmington, North Carolina, City Council (Apr. 2, 2013), <https://bit.ly/2rRo2RB>.

Pennsylvania

Good morning. Thank you for welcoming something different to your day. It is an honor to be given a voice in this governing body.

In recent months, religious beliefs have been at the forefront of national debate. We are fortunate to live in a country founded and formed to recognize the importance of the individual, where no one shall be made to hide nor justify his personal beliefs, and where no government shall impose a singular religion on its citizenry. Where there is misunderstanding, we may engage in conscientious and respectful dialogue to assuage fear.

I am humbled to represent a portion of your diverse constituency, and that may raise the question, do atheists pray? A prayer is meditative, seeking inner strength to face difficulty and challenge. A prayer is solicitous, seeking to bring a benefit or relief to oneself, a loved one, or even to strangers. A prayer can be a direct appeal to a higher power.

So, let us pray that we may use our power to lead with compassion and understanding, that we remain tolerant of others regardless of differences in religious belief, gender, race, sexual or political orientation, and that we treat one another as we wish to be treated. Let us pray for open minds and for the strength to overcome preconceived judgment. Let us learn daily and consider wisely. Let us be mindful of our one diverse human family with common values and needs. Let us work toward clean air, clear water, safe neighborhoods, strong schools, and a viable economy with sustained employment opportunity for all. Let us provide for well trained and equipped firefighters, emergency responders, police, and military, and may we never forget their sacrifice. As we forge ahead toward the common good of community, may we all benefit from the enduring power of diversity.

Thank you.

Deana Weaver, Invocation Before Pennsylvania Senate (Apr. 15, 2015), <https://bit.ly/2GrJNgd>.

South Carolina

Thank you for this opportunity to invoke a minority point of view. Each of us is a minority in some way. It might be race, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, or any other aspect in which we may be regarded as different. Each of us is also part of some majority. It is when we wear our majority hats that we need to be most mindful of how we treat others. We must pledge our best efforts to help one another, and to defend the rights of all of our citizens and residents.

What divides us is not so much our religious differences in this diverse country, but the degree of commitment we have to equal freedom of conscience for all people.

We are gathered today, both religious and secular members of our community, with the shared belief that we must treat our fellow human beings with respect and dignity.

In this invocation, I don't ask you to close your eyes, but to keep your eyes constantly open to the serious problems that city government can solve or improve. I don't ask you to bow your heads, but to look up at what you can accomplish by applying your considerable talents and experience to the issues that confront us.

As you work together on behalf of all who live in this city, may you draw strength and sustenance from one another through reason and compassion. I'd like to close in a bipartisan manner by quoting from two presidents I greatly admire—one a Republican and the other a Democrat.

First, the Republican:

“When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad. That is my religion.”

—Abraham Lincoln

And now, the Democrat:

“It’s remarkable how much you can accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

—Harry S. Truman

Herb Silverman, Invocation Before Charleston, South Carolina, City Council (Mar. 25, 2004), <https://bit.ly/2Ir6tTN>.

South Dakota

Thank you Mr. Mayor, Council members, citizens of Sioux Falls, and all those present for this opportunity to provide an inspirational opening to your meeting.

Often at this time, you are asked to bow your heads. Instead, I ask you to lift your head up and look around. Turn your attention to this room—a room that has heard countless discussions, frustrations, and successes; a room where important decisions regarding your city are routinely made.

Now take a moment to soak in the presence of the men and women in this room, gathered here at this time and place to engage in their civic duty, to contribute and work toward creating a better community. Think of the hundreds and thousands of others who are also affected by the ideas shared here. Let all voices be heard and understood equally.

It is also often customary to read from a book during an invocation, and tonight will be no different—I’ll be sharing a quote from J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” in which Professor Albus Dumbledore said, “Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”

Although our differences may be many, we are bound together in similarity as members of the human species. As humans, we have the capacity to appreciate and thank each other; to utilize compassion and reason in our decision-making. I ask those present to join me in showing gratitude to the men and women that serve the great city of Sioux

Falls. We need only look to each other for guidance, and work together to overcome any challenges we may face.

Amanda Novotny, Invocation Before Sioux Falls, South Dakota, City Council (Aug. 5, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2rQ4DAR>.

Texas

We come together today in a spirit of cooperation and compromise, respect and courtesy, calling upon the rules of civility to guide us.

As we look around this chamber, we are reminded that in our differences lie our strengths.

We are black, white, Hispanic, Asian and Native American. We are Catholic, Protestant, Baptist; Jew, Muslim, Hindu; Buddhist, Humanist, Wiccan; Pagan, Atheist, Agnostic; and unaffiliated.

Some of us live our lives in the certainty of our faith; others of us are still looking for answers, or have found them in our common human struggles. We are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, with and without disabilities, young and old and everything in between.

We don't all think the same way. Many of us hold very differing views on topics that are important to us. Our political views range from liberal to conservative and some of us are a bit of both.

But we all agree and know that personal beliefs, regardless of how strongly we hold them, are ours alone.

Yet, as we gather here together, we are linked by our common humanity, our shared heritage and our mutual desire to do what is best for the citizens of El Paso.

Our city has a long history of saying no to hate and bigotry, and as we move forward, we remember the difficult decisions

of our former leaders. Let us continue to build on their legacy.

David Marcus, Invocation Before El Paso, Texas, City Council (Dec. 2, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2Lb9kh9>.

Washington

Thank you Mayor and council members for this opportunity to provide an inspirational start to your meeting. Normally you would bow your heads for an invocation in this chamber, but I am going to ask that you raise your eyes and think about a few things today.

When this body comes together to govern, they do so with the consent of the citizens of Oak Harbor. Oak Harbor is a very diverse community with many different views and opinions.

My Secular Humanism, which is to say reason and science, leads me to believe that we, as humans, can meet the challenges of these differences and create a society with less dissension and leave a better, more equal culture for future generations.

It is incumbent upon this council to make the best decisions for the community. In this regard, I ask that you use reason, wisdom and empathy in your deliberations today, to take into account the implications your decisions will have now and in the future. We should all plant an acorn, even though we may not live to hear the wind rush through its leaves or the joyous laughter of children playing in the comfort of its shade. We plant the seed for the benefit of future generations.

In the words of Bertrand Russell, in order to do our part
“One must care about a world one will not see.”

Robert Ray, Invocation Before Oak Harbor, Washington, City Council (Feb. 4, 2014), <https://bit.ly/2wPMw3F>.

I would like to open this invocation by asking everyone, look around you. Beside you, in front of you, and behind you, is a person that is, in so many ways, the same as you. We may have different backgrounds and beliefs. We may come from different ethnicities and religions. But when it comes down to it, we are all sharing the same speck of dust floating through this vast and wondrous universe.

Many have come before this chamber to speak of their faith. But I would, instead, like to speak of trust. Of trust in humanity, trust in the fundamental goodwill within people. Trust that we all yearn to make the world a better place. Trust that some can answer a higher calling. A calling many of us have in common. That is: to serve our fellow humans to the best of our ability. I trust that everyone in this chamber has felt this or you would not be here.

With that being said, I also ask that you use your trust in the same way I have described. Reach out to one another. Try to understand and have empathy with those you may disagree with. Make an honest attempt at compromise, for that is what our secular government is based on.

With today being the 272nd birthday of Thomas Jefferson, I felt I should honor his memory with a quote:

“He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me.”

So thank you for this opportunity to bring my message of trust, humanity, and Humanism into this chamber.

And I will end with this simple phrase:

E Pluribus Unum.

Robert Ray, Invocation Before Washington State House of Representatives (Apr. 13, 2015), <https://bit.ly/2k4x3Dv>.

ADDENDUM B

Invocations That Are Nontheistic or Arguably Nontheistic, Given to the Connecticut Senate by its Officers, April 28, 2003 through April 19, 2018

Each invocation can be found in the Journal of the Senate for the date listed. To access a Journal for a particular date, go to http://search.cga.state.ct.us/r/adv/dtsearch_form.asp, type “senate” in the “Title” field, select the appropriate year in the “Document Text” field, select “Session Journals” under “Session/Committee,” and click on the “Search” button. Results will appear in chronological order.

In a few instances, the original Journals have been edited to correct punctuation or typographical errors.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/28/2003	Acting Chaplain Victor Salce	Let us pray. We will not despair that we cannot change the world in a day or two. Instead, we give our very best in the little things we do. We will find in days to come when all is taken together, these little steps did change and make the world a little better. Amen.
3/15/2007	Acting Chaplain Erik Alexander	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy. Amen.
3/26/2007	Acting Chaplain Erik Alexander	For as long as space endures, and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I too abide to dispel the misery of the world. Amen.
4/4/2007	Acting Chaplain Mikhael Borgonos	Doing the right thing is our best gift. That is what brings us bliss and happiness. Happy and blissful is the person who does what is right, because it is the right thing to do. Amen.
4/27/2007	Acting Chaplain Erik Alexander	May the whole world enjoy good health, long life, prosperity, happiness and peace. Amen.
5/14/2007	Acting Chaplain Erik Alexander	For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything thy goodness sends. Amen.
2/28/2008	Acting Chaplain Michael Shonta	May the whole world enjoy good health, long life, prosperity, happiness and peace. Amen.
4/25/2008	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	For as long as space endures and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I too abide to dispel the misery of the world.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/6/2009	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	All of you should be like-minded, sympathetic, loving toward one another, kindly disposed, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult. Return a blessing instead. This you have been called to do, that you may receive as your inheritance. Amen.
2/10/2009	Acting Chaplain Renee J. Simmons	May the whole world enjoy good health, long life, prosperity, happiness and peace. Amen.
2/20/2009	Acting Chaplain Lois Kelly	All of you should be like-minded, sympathetic, loving toward one another, kindly disposed, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult. Return a blessing instead. This you have been called to do, that you may receive a blessing as your inheritance. Amen.
3/27/2009	Acting Chaplain Lois Kelly	Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Amen.
4/16/2009	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	The good we do is never lost, each kindly act takes root; and every bit of love we sow in time will bear its fruit. Amen.
5/1/2009	Acting Chaplain Lois Kelly	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy. Amen.
5/18/2009	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	Guard well your lips, for none can know what evils from the tongue may flow; what guilt, what grief may be incurred by one uncautious, evil word. A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
12/22/2009	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Let us pray. May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy.
1/11/2010	Acting Chaplain Bernard Auger	When we are confused, guide us; when we are weary, energize us; when we are burnt out, infuse us with your guidance. May the work that we do and the way we do it bring faith, joy, and a smile to all that we come in contact with today. Amen.
4/5/2010	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	To honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed. Amen.
1/31/2011	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Guard well your lips, for none can know what evils from the tongue may flow; what guilt, what grief may be incurred by one uncautious, evil word. A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart. Amen.
2/22/2011	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	All of you should be like-minded, sympathetic, loving toward one another, kindly disposed, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult to insult. Return a blessing instead. This you have been called to do, that you may receive a blessing as your inheritance. Amen.
2/23/2011	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy. Amen.
3/31/2011	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind. Let it be something good. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/1/2011	Acting Chaplain Dan Doyle	Doing the right thing is our best gift. That is what brings us bliss and happiness. Happy and blissful is the person who does what is right, because it is the right thing to do. Amen.
5/18/2011	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	To honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed. Amen.
2/9/2012	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and do. Give us the courage to do what is right to bring the world a glimpse of your light. Amen.
2/22/2012	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	What we say and how we act toward others reveals who we are. So may we use our tongue for good and not for bad. Amen.
3/7/2012	Acting Chaplain Sarah L. Hamby	For as long as space endures and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I too abide to dispel the misery of the world. Amen.
3/15/2012	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Doing the right thing is our best gift. That is what brings us bliss and happiness. Happy and blissful is the person who does what is right because it is the right and diligent thing to do.
4/12/2012	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind. Let it be something good. Amen.
4/17/2012	Acting Chaplain Sarah L. Hamby	Guard well your lips, for none can know what evils from the tongue may flow, what guilt, what grief may be incurred by one incautious, evil word. A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/20/2012	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Guard well your lips, for none can know what evils from the tongue may flow, what guilt, what grief may be incurred by one incautious, evil word. A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart. Amen.
1/15/2013	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind—let it be something good.
1/17/2013	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	The road that leads to misery is caused by a tongue that wags; beware of lying lips, my friends, and a mouth that boasts and brags. If you always tell the truth, you will never be trapped in a lie. Amen.
1/30/2013	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind. Let it be something good.
2/27/2013	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Doing the right thing is our best gift. That is what brings us bliss and happiness. Happy and blissful is the person who does what is right because it is the right thing to do. Amen.
3/26/2013	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Guard well your lips, for none can know what evils from the tongue may flow, what guilt, what grief may be incurred by one, incautious, evil word. A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/5/2013	Acting Chaplain Doug Peary	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind—let it be something good.
4/16/2013	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Doing the right thing is our best gift. That is what brings us bliss and happiness. Happy and blissful is the person who does what is right because it is the right thing to do.
5/20/2013	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	For as long as space endures and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I, too, abide to dispel the misery of the world.
5/23/2013	Acting Chaplain Laura Bartok	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind—let it be something good. Amen.
2/18/2014	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	Kindness is a loving guide that shows us how to live. A treasure, which the more we spend, the more we have to give. Amen.
2/24/2014	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	May we be filled with kindness. May we be well. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy.
3/6/2014	Acting Chaplain Christopher Ross	For as long as space endures and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I too abide to dispel the misery of the world. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/22/2014	Acting Chaplain Christopher Ross	This is the beginning of a new day. You've been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever. In its place is something that you have left behind—let it be something good. Amen.
1/15/2015	Acting Chaplain Cynthia Dunne	We humbly ask that we be granted the ability to renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with goodness. Amen.
1/20/2015	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	Kindness is a loving guide that shows us how to live, a treasure which, the more we spend, the more we have to give. Amen.
1/21/2015	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	You who are merciful, teach us compassion. You who are just, teach us equality. You who are wise, teach us wisdom. And you who are our inspiration, teach us to open our hearts to your counsel. Amen.
1/23/2015	Acting Chaplain Cynthia Dunne	This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind—let it be something good. Amen.
1/28/2015	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	Give us strength to face our problems and not flee from them. Amen.
1/29/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	We ask help that we may bring renewal to all those who live in pain, as we hold fast to the knowledge that the sun will rise again and that all life will reawaken. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/2/2015	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Please bless us with inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
2/24/2015	Acting Chaplain Frank A. Forzano	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
2/26/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
2/27/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
3/3/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
3/5/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
3/16/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
3/18/2015	Acting Chaplain Alice Ann Joseph	When life's journey gets too difficult, and it feels too much to bear, may we remember that we do not walk alone. Amen.
3/24/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/26/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
5/14/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
5/27/2015	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
6/1/2015	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. We give thanks for each new morning and with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for loving friends, for all of it there is. Amen.
12/8/2015	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what's best for the people of Connecticut.
2/4/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	We ask that we be always mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work. Amen.
2/8/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
2/10/2016	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
2/11/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/16/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to guard with care the things we say. Let us remember that our words have the power to build up or tear down.
2/18/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
2/19/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to guard with care the things we say. Let us remember that our words have the power to build up or tear down.
2/23/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to guard with care the things we say. Let us remember that our words have the power to build up or tear down.
2/25/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
2/26/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
2/29/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	We give thanks for the good things of this world, and for the power of choice, for this is the beauty of life.
3/1/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/2/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/3/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help me to live a creative life, to lose my fear of being wrong. Let me know that in all things, I am not alone, and I will never fear.
3/4/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/7/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	This is the beginning of a new day. We have been given this day to use as you will. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that we have left behind—let it be something good.
3/8/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/9/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	We ask that we be always mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work.
3/10/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/11/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Thank you for this beautiful day.
3/14/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	When we are confused, guide us, when we are weary, energize us, when we are tired, renew us. May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
3/15/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/16/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
3/18/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/21/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	When we are confused, guide us, when we are weary, energize us, when we are tired, renew us. May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
3/22/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed.
3/24/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/30/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to guard with care the things we say. Let us remember that our words have the power to build up or tear down.
3/31/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed.
4/1/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/4/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/5/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
4/7/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/8/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/11/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/12/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
4/14/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Let us remember that understanding is one of the greatest accomplishments of life, and with it comes wisdom.
4/15/2016	Acting Chaplain Ryan Duff	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/18/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in the word and deed.
4/21/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/22/2016	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/25/2016	Acting Chaplain Teri Gavigan	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/30/2016	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
6/8/2016	Acting Chaplain Elizabeth Keyes	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
6/13/2016	Acting Chaplain Joseph P. Quinn, Jr.	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
6/20/2016	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Please bless us with an inner strength so our lives and our work may be blessings onto others. Amen.
1/5/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
1/6/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed.
1/9/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
1/11/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
1/12/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
1/13/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
1/17/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	We give thanks for the good things of this world, and for the power of choice, for this is the beauty of life.
1/19/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
1/20/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	As our nation undergoes this presidential transition, may our president embrace the sacred trust of administering the nation. Give our new president, his administration, and Congress the ability to do what is right, fair, and just for all citizens. May all people in our nation, irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, or religious faith, be treated with dignity, and may peace prevail with goodness.
1/23/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Teach us how to love and work, that every deed we do may be to someone, in its turn, a service that is fine and true.
1/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
1/25/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
1/26/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Justice is the only worship. Love is the only priest. Ignorance is the only slavery. Kindness is the only good. The way to be happy is to make others so.
1/27/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
1/30/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Justice is the only worship. Love is the only priest. Ignorance is the only slavery. Kindness is the only good. The way to be happy is to make others so.
1/31/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
2/2/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we always be mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work.
2/3/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Give us the hindsight to know where we have been, the foresight to know where we are going, and the insight to know when we are going too far.
2/6/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
2/7/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/14/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
2/15/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
2/16/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Let us remember that understanding is one of the greatest accomplishments of life, and with it comes wisdom.
2/17/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	We expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness we can show, or any good thing that we can do to any fellow being, let us do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as we shall not pass this way again.
2/21/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Please grant our hearts grace as we come together for our deliberations. As we face many needs and challenges, give us the ability to be judicious.
2/22/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to guard with care the things we say. Let us remember that our words have the power to build up or tear down.
2/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Guard our tongues so what we say won't hurt and carelessly offend. Give us the gracious speech of love, with words that soothe and heal and mend.
2/27/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Give us the hindsight to know where we have been, the foresight to know where we are going, and the insight to know when we are going too far.
2/28/2017	Acting Chaplain Paul Alderucci	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/1/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
3/2/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
3/3/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
3/6/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Please grant our hearts grace as we come together for our deliberations. As we face many needs and challenges, give us the ability to be judicious.
3/9/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.
3/10/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
3/13/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we always be mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work.
3/16/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
3/23/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Teach us the secret of loving. Help us to love one another and not put off until tomorrow the loving words we can say today.
3/27/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	When we learn that someone is hurting, help us to know what to do and say. Give us compassion today for the hurting, as compassion is love in action.
3/28/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
3/29/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Teach us the secret of loving. Help us to love one another and not put off until tomorrow the loving words we can say today.
3/30/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/3/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/4/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Teach us how to love and work, that every deed we do may be to someone, in its turn, a service that is fine and true.
4/5/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
4/6/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	We give thanks for the good things of this world, and for the power of choice, for this is the beauty of life.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/7/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/10/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.
4/11/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/17/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Grant us the ability to renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Help us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with goodness.
4/18/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/19/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/20/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we always be mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work.
4/21/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others. Amen.
4/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect, to meet another's need, to give someone encouragement, to love in word and deed.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/25/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/26/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
4/27/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/1/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/2/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
5/4/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/5/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/8/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/9/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we always be mindful of the respect we owe all beings, in our lives and in our work.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
5/11/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/12/2017	Acting Chaplain Kathleen Zabel	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.
5/15/2017	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	We ask help that we may bring renewal to all those who live in pain, as we hold fast to the knowledge that the sun will rise again, and that all life will reawaken.
5/16/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/22/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
5/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut. Amen.
5/30/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Let us remember that understanding is one of the greatest accomplishments of life and with it comes wisdom. Amen.
6/2/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut. Amen.
6/3/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
6/4/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	In these difficult times, may our leaders find in their hearts the guidance and wisdom to do what is best for the people of Connecticut.
6/6/2017	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good. Amen.
6/22/2017	Acting Chaplain Ryan Duff	Help us be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right. Amen.
7/24/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
7/31/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.
10/25/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.
11/14/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	As we come together for our deliberations, please give us prudence to be judicious and the ability to treat others with respect.
11/15/2017	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
12/29/2017	Acting Chaplain Joel Rudikoff	As we begin this meeting of the Senate, may we always be mindful of the respect we owe to all beings, in our lives and in our work. And let us all say, Amen.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/8/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
2/9/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
2/13/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	For as long as space endures and living beings remain, until then may I too abide to dispel the misery of the world.
2/14/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
2/15/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.
2/16/2018	Acting Chaplain Kevin Ricciardi	We expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness we can show, or any good thing that we can do to any fellow being, let us do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as we shall not pass this way again.
2/17/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	We expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness we can show, or any good thing that we can do to any fellow being, let us do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as we shall not pass this way again.
2/18/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
2/20/2018	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	Grant our Legislators the ability to be of reasonable mind, to form a right conscience so that all their judgements will benefit our State's welfare.
2/22/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
2/23/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
2/26/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
2/27/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect; to meet another's need; to give someone encouragement; to love in word and deed.
2/28/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	Help us to learn that to honor is to show respect; to meet another's need; to give someone encouragement; to love in word and deed.
3/1/2018	Acting Chaplain Carmela Balducci	When we learn that someone is hurting, help us to know what to do and say. Give us compassion today for the hurting, as compassion is love in action.
3/2/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
3/5/2018	Acting Chaplain Marty Dunleavy	Please grant our hearts grace as we come together for our deliberations. As we face many needs and challenges, give us prudence to be judicious.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/6/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
3/7/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Please grant our hearts grace as we come together for our deliberations. As we face many needs and challenges, give us prudence to be judicious.
3/8/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	As we come together for our deliberations, please give us prudence to be judicious and the ability to treat others with respect.
3/9/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
3/12/2018	Acting Chaplain Timothy B. Kehoe	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/14/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.
3/15/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/20/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/21/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
3/22/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/23/2018	Acting Chaplain Kevin Ricciardi	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
3/26/2018	Acting Chaplain Marty Dunleavy	Grant our Legislators the ability to be of reasonable mind, to form a right conscience so that all their judgments will benefit our State's welfare.
3/28/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	Help us to be honest and true in all that we say and all that we do. Give us the courage to do what is right.
3/29/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/2/2018	Acting Chaplain Noele R. Kidney	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/3/2018	Acting Chaplain Marty Dunleavy	May we be filled with loving kindness. May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy with the things we have.
4/4/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	Guard our tongues so what we say won't hurt and carelessly offend. Give us the gracious speech of love, with words that soothe and heal and mend.
4/6/2018	Acting Chaplain Kevin Ricciardi	Understanding is one of the greatest accomplishments of life, and with it comes wisdom.

Date	Speaker	Invocation
4/9/2018	Acting Chaplain Marty Dunleavy	May the work that we do benefit all those we serve.
4/10/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	We pray for continued blessings and watchfulness over the concerns of this State. Continue to uphold its officials as well as its citizens in the weeks ahead.
4/12/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	Guard our tongues so what we say won't hurt and carelessly offend. Give us the gracious speech of love, with words that soothe and heal and mend.
4/13/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	We ask for patience to understand those who disagree with us, sensitivity to the needs of others, and prudence to make decisions which work toward the common good.
4/16/2018	Acting Chaplain Marty Dunleavy	Give us the hindsight to know where we have been, the foresight to know where we are going, and the insight to know when we are going too far.
4/17/2018	Acting Chaplain Francisco Chang	Please bless us with an inner strength so that our lives and our work may be a blessing on others.
4/19/2018	Acting Chaplain Kathy Zabel	Guard our tongues so what we say won't hurt and carelessly offend. Give us the gracious speech of love, with words that soothe and heal and mend.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 22, 2018, I filed this document through the Court's CM/ECF system, which caused it to be electronically served on all parties, through the following counsel:

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