



# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • [www.ffrf.org](http://www.ffrf.org)

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May 4, 2010

**SENT VIA FAX & U.S. MAIL**  
**(608) 267-8983**

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Governor  
State of Wisconsin  
115 East State Capitol  
PO Box 7863  
Madison WI 53703

Re: Governor's Prayer Breakfast - May 6, 2010

Dear Governor Doyle:

Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, wrote to you last week regarding the constitutionality of National Day of Prayer events and proclamations. We write again separately to alert you to another potential constitutional violation concerning the National Day of Prayer.

Did you know that your title is being usurped for a private Christian event in a way that appears to confer the endorsement of your office upon it, thus singling out and preferring Christianity over other religions? It is our information and understanding that on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, The Christian Courier newspaper is holding the "Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast," which coincides with the National Day of Prayer. This religious event will take place at the Italian Conference Center in Milwaukee. We understand that you have been invited to this event in your official capacity as Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Apparently, this event has been held in Milwaukee for over thirty years. Please find enclosed a copy of the article from The Christian Courier, which describes itself as "America's Longest Running Newspaper."

This Christian event appears to carry the Office of the Governor's stamp of approval, which offends the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Wisconsin state constitution. While elected officials may of course attend private functions on their own time in their personal capacity, it is a misuse of office for the Governor or his staff to promote, organize or cosponsor such activities as have commonly been spawned by the unconstitutional National Day of Prayer, such as prayer breakfasts, or to lend the Governor's name to a "Governor's Prayer Breakfast." The Christian Courier, which is

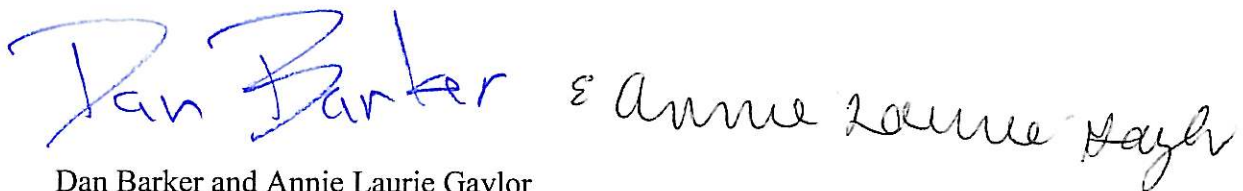
the actual sponsor of this event, should be asked to use their own names on invitations, and not imply State or gubernatorial approval or sponsorship.

If you have given your written or verbal assent to this, we ask that you immediately contact the sponsors to disassociate yourself from this Christian event given in your name.

If you have not consented, we urge your office to immediately advise the Christian Courier to cease and desist hijacking the title of the Governor to name and promote its private religious event.

May we hear from you about this First Amendment concern at your earliest convenience?

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Barker & Annie Laurie Gaylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' for Dan and a large initial 'A' for Annie.

Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor  
Co-Presidents

Enclosure

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California Board Wants Teacher  
 o Remove "God" Banners



News)-Board mem- of the Poway Unified District voted to ap- a ruling siding with teacher Brad Johnson, the board ordered to down two banners with nces to God, includ- n God We Trust" and Bless America."

5. District Court Judge . T. Benitez ruled that n Diego, Calif., teach- constitutional rights violated. Johnson's had been hanging in ssroom for more than

However, in other class- rooms, images of Buddha, and a poster with lyrics from a anti-religious song. Robert Muise, attorney with the Thomas More Law Center, said Johnson made a bold move by standing by his convictions. "He was willing to take on the school district and battle this for several years, and he prevailed," he said.

Muise added that Benitez' ruling was somewhat unusual. "In these days of judicial activism," he said,

# The Christian Courier

America's Longest Running Christian Newspaper

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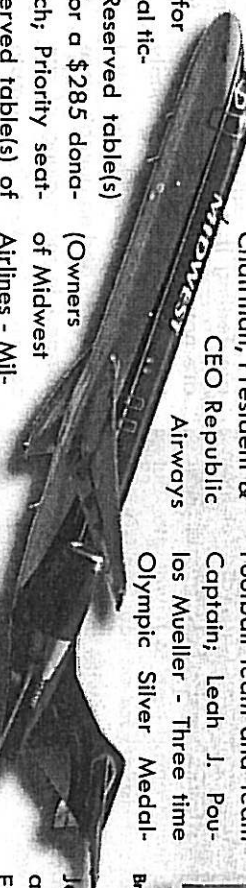
## Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast May 6th

The Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 6th, 2010 at the Italian Conference Center, 620 E. Chicago Avenue in Milwaukee. May 6th is also the "National Day of Prayer" a presidential proclamation. The event is open to the public with a do-

"A Call To Prayer For A Nation At War," published by White Stone Books, Inc. will be given to all priority table sponsors and their guests. Obtaining tickets early is suggested because the event is usually sold out. The featured speaker will be Bryan Bedford, Chairman, President & CEO Republic Airways

Department; Scott Gi-ehahn - President/CEO Schroeder Solutions; Joel Lee - Owner & President Van Buren Management; Scott Meyer - President & CEO QPS Employment Group; Sean Rutter - Partner, Tax Services Ernst & Young, LLP; Chris Marragos - Safety UW Football Team and Team Captain; Leah J. Poulos Mueller - Three time Olympic Silver Medal-

tional Guard; Laura Snyder - Vocalist and Bassist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; Debra S. Waller - Chairman of



Individual tic- ket(s); Reserved table(s) of 10 for a \$285 donation each; Priority seating Reserved table(s) of 10 for a \$350 donation each; Sponsor Reserved table(s) of 10; with priority seating, for a \$500 donation each which includes sponsor's name in the program. A free copy of the book

(Owners of Midwest Airlines - Milwaukee's hometown airline). Also on the program will be Mark S. Neumann - CLU Managing Director Northwest-ern Mutual Financial Network; Captain Michael J. Schauz - West Allis Fire

skater Twice World Champion, Sprint Category; Jinelle (Zaugg) Stiefel - Silver Medalist in Women's Hockey; Donald P. Dunbar Brigadier General, Adjutant General WI Na-

Bryan Bedford, CEO Republic Airways the Board and CEO Jockey International, Inc.; and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker. The Mayor and the Governor have been invited but not confirmed as of this publication deadline. This is an annual event being held in Milwaukee for over thirty years. Call 414.344-7300 for info.

