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Bizarre events confirm Washington's faith

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WASHINGTON — WND is proud to help present a monumental event inside the U.S. Capitol on May 7, 2014, when several lawmakers will offer prayers on behalf of the nation, our president and his Cabinet, the Supreme Court and its justices and members of Congress.

"Washington: A Man of Prayer, 2014" commemorates the events of April 30, 1789, when, after being sworn in at Federal Hall, President George Washington, accompanied by Congress, proceeded to St. Paul's Chapel where, as one of his first official acts, the president offered a prayer of dedication to God on America's behalf.

Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., will host, Mike Huckabee will emcee, and some of America's most principled public servants (including Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas; Mike Lee, R-Utah; and Reps. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas; and Steve King, R-Iowa) will commemorate the 225th inaugural anniversary of President Washington, with members of Congress and national Christian leaders honoring the first U.S. president as a man of Christian faith.

Best-selling author William J. Federer has graciously contributed the following article to WND's series previewing "Washington: A Man of Prayer, 2014."

"The Prayer at Valley Forge" by Arnold Friberg

By William J. Federer

"The Hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in...the course of the war – that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith." -General George Washington, August 20, 1778.

The British Empire was the largest empire the earth had seen, controlling at its peak 13 million square miles and a half a billion people.

Indeed, out of the nearly 200 countries in the world, only 20 were never controlled or invaded by Britain. America wanted independence.

Along with courage was the role of prayer.

For example, the day the British were planning to charge 3,000 soldiers up Dorchester Heights to attack Col. Knox's cannons, Massachusetts had declared a day of fasting, which General Washington ordered:

"The 7th (of March 1776)...being set apart by this Province as a Day of Fasting, Prayer and Humiliation...all officers and soldiers are strictly enjoined to pay all due reverence...on that day to the sacred duties due to the Lord of hosts."

That same day, a violent storm caused the sea to be so turbulent that British General Howe abandoned the attack.

Washington wrote his brother, John Augustine, March 31, 1776:

"Upon their discovery of the works next morning, great preparations were made for attacking them; but...the weather getting very tempestuous, much blood was saved and a very important blow...prevented.

That this most remarkable Interposition of Providence is for some wise purpose, I have not a doubt."

The British then headed to New York, filling the harbor with 400 ships carrying 32,000 troops.

It was the largest invasion force assembled in world history to that date.

The hundreds of wooden masts of the ships looked like a forest of trees.

Washington ordered:

"The Continental Congress having ordered...the 17th (of May 1776) to be observed as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, humbly to supplicate the mercy of Almighty God... the General commands all officers and soldiers to pay strict obedience to the orders of the Continental Congress; that...they may incline the Lord and Giver of victory to prosper our arms."

The night before the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, a British loyalist led 10,000 British troops through Jamaica Pass to attack Washington from behind on August 27, 1776.

It was the largest battle of the Revolutionary War.

3,000 Americans were killed or wounded – only 392 British casualties.

The sun set with British General Howe having trapped the American Army against the sea.

Instead of resigning to the fate of being just another British colony like India or Kenya, Washington desperately ferried his army across the East River to Manhattan Island.

The sea was boisterous where the British ships were, but providentially calm in the East River.

Washington's Chief of Intelligence, Major Ben Tallmadge, wrote:

"As the dawn of the next day approached, those of us who remained in the trenches became very anxious for our own safety... At this time a very dense fog began to rise off the river, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well, and so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance... We tarried until the sun had risen, but the fog remained as dense as ever."

Washington was on the last boat that left.

The British never again had the chance of capturing the entire American army all at once.

"Washington crossing the Delaware" by Emanuel Leutze

The winter of 1776 was the Battle of Trenton. Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas Day evening and captured a thousand German Hessians.

Ten days later was the Battle of Princeton.

When American soldiers were about retreat, Washington ordered them to follow him as he rode to within 30 yards of the British.

He turned and faced his men and yelled 'fire.'

The British returned the volley.

Everyone expected Washington to be dead, being in the middle of the field, but when the smoke cleared, Washington was seen waving arms and commanding 'charge'.

Yale President Ezra Stiles stated:

"Independence...was...confirmed by God Almighty in the victory of General Washington at Trenton, and in the surprising movement and battle of Princeton... The United States are under peculiar obligations to become a holy people unto the Lord our God."

At Saratoga, Americans captured 6,000 British troops.

The Continental Congress issued the first National Day of Thanksgiving, 1777:

"That with...one voice the good people may...join the penitent confession of their manifold sins...that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ...to forgive and blot them out...and...secure for these United States...independence and peace."

When the victory of Saratoga was told to Declaration signer Roger Sherman, he exclaimed: "This is the Lord's doing, and marvelous in our eyes!"

"The March to Valley Forge" by William Brooke Thomas Trego

During the 1778 winter at Valley Forge, Lutheran Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, whose sons Peter and Frederick later served in the first U.S. Congress, wrote in The Notebook of a Colonial Clergyman:

"His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each and every one to fear God, to put away the wickedness...and to practice the Christian virtues... God has...marvelously, preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils."

When Benedict Arnold attempted to betray West Point, Washington wrote, September 26, 1780:

"Treason of the blackest dye was yesterday discovered! General Arnold who commanded at West Point...was about to deliver up that important post into the hands of the enemy... The Providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the Liberties of America are the object of divine Protection."

[Sign up here to watch the webcast of "Washington: A Man of Prayer" from the U.S. Capitol on May 7, 2014, at 7:30 EST. You can be there virtually and experience the history in the making, the camaraderie, the inspiration and the prayers just by signing up on this page for FREE.](#)

The Continental Congress proclaimed October 18, 1780:

"In...rescuing...our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent dangers, at the moment when treason was ripened for execution... it is...recommended...a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer...to confess our unworthiness...and to offer fervent supplications to the God of all grace...to cause the knowledge of Christianity to spread over all the earth."

After the Battle of Cowpens, 1781, three rivers rose in ten days to allow American Generals Daniel Morgan and Nathaniel Greene to escape Lord Cornwallis.

Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781

British Commander Henry Clinton wrote:

"Here the royal army was again stopped by a sudden rise of the waters, which had only just fallen (almost miraculously) to let the enemy over."

Chief Justice John Jay stated September 8, 1777:

"This glorious revolution...(is) distinguished by so many marks of the Divine favor and interposition...in a manner so...miraculous, that when future ages shall read its history...will it not appear...like the emancipation of the Jews from Egyptian servitude."

During the War of 1812, George Washington's portrait was taken down by Dolly Madison and she rode with it out of the Capitol while British Admiral George Cockburn, with 4,500 British troops, rode in.

Cockburn went in the White House, ate dinner, then set it on fire.

His soldiers sat in the seats of Congress, and Cockburn said from the Speakers chair, "who votes to burn the Capitol," and they all said "aye."

Burning of the White House by Tom Freeman

They also burned the Library of Congress, the Patent office, the Treasury and the Navy Yard.

President James Madison had previously proclaimed two days of prayer and afterwards a day of fasting.

Suddenly dark clouds rolled in, wind and thunder grew into a "frightening roar" and lightning began striking.

Tornadoes touched down sending debris flying, blowing off roofs, knocking down chimneys and walls on British troops.

Two cannons were lifted off the ground and dropped yards away. Winds slammed both horse and rider to the ground.

The book, Washington Weather, recorded British Admiral George Cockburn exclaiming to a lady:

"Great God, Madam! Is this the kind of storm to which you are accustomed in this infernal country?"

To which the lady replied:

"No, Sir, this is a special interposition of Providence to drive our enemies from our city."

A British historian wrote:

"More British soldiers were killed by this stroke of nature than from all the firearms the American troops had mustered in the feeble defense of their city."

As British fled, torrential rains fell, extinguishing the fires.

They marched back over downed trees to their ships only to find two blown ashore and others with damaged riggings.

On September 1, 1814, Madison wrote:

"The enemy by a sudden incursion has succeeded in invading the capitol of the nation...during their possession...though for a single day only, they wantonly destroyed the public edifices... Independence...is now to be maintained... with the strength and resources which...Heaven has blessed."

As America faces crises today, we need the courage of those before us, as well as their prayer.

WILLIAM J. FEDERER is the best-selling co-author (with Susie Federer) of "Miracles in American History-32 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayer", a nationally known speaker and president of Amerisearch, Inc., a publishing company dedicated to researching America's noble heritage.

His AMERICAN MINUTE radio feature is broadcast daily across America and by the Internet. His Faith in History television airs on the TCT Network on stations across America and via DirectTV.

[Click here to read more details on "Washington: A Man of Prayer" and its significance.](#)

Now in its third year, "Washington: A Man of Prayer, 2014" is the brainchild of Dan Cummins, pastor of Bridlewood Church in Bullard, Texas. The event will be broadcast globally by the Daystar Television Network, with WorldNetDaily Films and CBN News providing the satellite feed from Statuary Hall.

Statuary Hall

Churches can register online to host the webcast during their Wednesday midweek services at "[Washington: A Man of Prayer.](#)"

See a clip of Rabbi Jonathan Cahn speaking during last year's events:

Read these WND articles on "Washington: A Man of Prayer, 2014":

[God comes back to the Capitol: 'Washington: A Man of Prayer 2014' returns nation to its religious roots](#)

[Religion and politics, together again: 'Any nation that rejects God will be rejected by God'](#)

[Bachmann explains why God blessed America: Founders discovered key to success in the Bible](#)

[Jefferson and Madison went to church inside the Capitol; Saw Constitution protecting church from state; not vice versa](#)

[Reclaiming Washington's Christian heritage: Event to restore history of 1st president as champion for God"](#)

[Top 10 Reasons Washington was a Man of Prayer](#)
