

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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Proclamation of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Designating April 8, 2020 as a Day of Memorial, Prayer, and Reflection

On behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, I do hereby declare April 8, 2020 as a day of memorial, prayer, and reflection and ask all people to seek religious guidance during this time of world crisis.

April 8th would have been Sypraseuth Phouangphrachanh's, our Deputy Bud's, 44th birthday. His passing was caused by the pandemic virus which has halted our lives and has the potential to rob us of hundreds of thousands of souls. We remember Sypraseuth for the kind, gentle, compassionate man he was. Beneath the uniform, Deputy Sypraseuth was a teacher, a healer, a protector, and a friend. Let us remember the words, "what you are is what you have been. What you'll be is what you do now." We mourn our loss, but in our mourning let us honor Sypraseuth and follow the example of the life he lived. Let us place the needs of others at the forefront of our thoughts and actions, knowing that in humanity "if we fail to look after others when they need help, who will look after us."

We are at the beginning of a time which may be recorded as a turning point for humankind. Pontificators decry the potential end of our political, social, and economic institutions, and we have already seen here in Montgomery County the examples of panic and fear which precede the spread of this virus across the globe. "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you."

While we may, medically, be at the mercy of a merciless virus, our enemies can do us no real harm. HE has given us "the power to tread serpents and scorpions underfoot, and to trample on all the power of the Enemy; and in no case shall anything do [us] harm."

This crisis can be a turning point, but it need not be a change for the worse. "Even though you planned evil against me, God planned good to come out of it." Now is the time to work for positive change. We ourselves are responsible for change. "No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path." A pathway that starts with acts of kindness leads us to the One who will save us for eternity. "I alone am the Lord, the only one who can save you." "Call upon Me, I will respond to you."

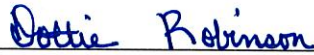
Collectively, on April 8th I ask you all to turn to prayer, and in those prayers to remember Sypraseuth, to reflect upon the condition of the world, to seek His guidance for the coming days, weeks, and months, and to act in a manner commensurate with the Holy teachings. Know that our mortal life is "a mist that appears for only a short while before it vanishes." Know that treasures hoarded here will rust and corrupt so "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where

thieves do not break in and steal." Let us use this crisis as a means to return to the teachings of God and to live as He has instructed.

The act of "prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing." I ask you to commit yourself daily to that humble task and to look upon the Scriptures for solace and guidance. This virus has been, and will continue to be, a suffering that we all must bear, but He "does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear."

Therefore, let it be known, that the 8th day of April 2020 is a day of memorial for Deputy Bud, a day to go to the Lord in Prayer, and a day to become a servant to God. Let our acts of servitude render this pandemic "like chaff before the wind, with the Angel of the Lord driving [it] from us."

ADOPTED THIS THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2020.



Dottie Robinson, Chairman
Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Misty H. Coffin
Clerk to the Board

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