



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, as Americans, we have enjoyed a heritage of faith and freedom in this nation since our earliest days; and

WHEREAS, America has long been a place where the civil body politic respected our First Freedom, not just from the institutional level of government but within the civil discourse of the nation's people; and

WHEREAS, our nation's democracy is rooted in the fundamental truth that all people are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who considered the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom to be one of his greatest achievements, was enacted on January 16, 1786, and the forerunner to the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects the right of individuals to express freely and act on their religious beliefs and individuals from coercion to profess or act on a religious belief to which they do not adhere; and

WHEREAS, in section 2(a)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) states these findings by Congress:

- The right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States; and
- Religious freedom was established by the founders of the United States “in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation;” and
- From its birth to this day, the United States has prized this legacy of religious freedom and honored this heritage by standing for religious freedom and offering refuge to those suffering religious persecution; and

WHEREAS, for countless people of the United States, faith is an integral part of every aspect of daily life and is not limited to their homes, houses of worship or doctrinal creeds;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2018, as

Religious Freedom Day

in the State of Alabama and I encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in their homes, schools, work places and places of worship as an expression of our gratitude for the blessings of liberty.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the
City of Montgomery on the 12th day of January 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor