

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Settlers of America’s early colonies sought relief from religious persecution and the freedom to express their religious beliefs without the enforcement of state-organized uniformity; and

WHEREAS: On January 16th, 1786, the General Assembly of Virginia established the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which was written by Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS: The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom provides that “no man shall suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion;” and

WHEREAS: Our nation’s first President and a proven hero of freedom stated, “The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights;” and

WHEREAS: Five years after the Virginia Statute, the Bill of Rights was ratified, preserving individuals’ religious freedom in written form by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. It is a right Americans have steadfastly cherished and exercised for over two hundred years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim January 16th, 2018 as

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to observe this day and express gratitude for the blessing of liberty, and particularly religious liberty on this day.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Attest:

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor