

State
Executive Department
of Iowa

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, as Americans, we have enjoyed a heritage of faith and freedom in this nation since our earliest days. As the U.S. Supreme Court so succinctly stated, "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being; and

WHEREAS, America has long been a place where the civil body politic respected our First Freedom. Even at this nation's lowest point, when it was divided by the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing a National Fast Day so that all Americans would seek God "to confess our sins and pray for forgiveness"; and

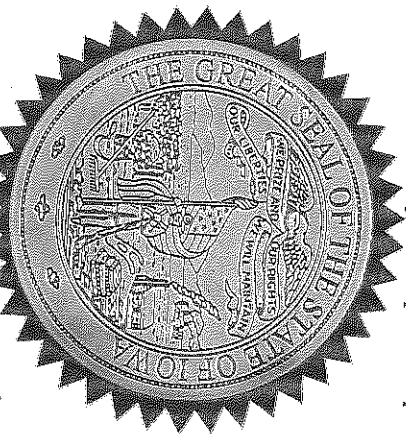
WHEREAS, Americans understood then and responded. Those who do not know history speak against religious freedom and freedom of speech, not realizing that these fundamental human rights provide the basis for all other rights. "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven," but just as President Lincoln proclaimed, "[W]e have forgotten God, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us"; and

WHEREAS, on this day, Religious Freedom Day, when we take time to commemorate what our forefathers battled for, we too have much work to do to nurture and to protect that vision throughout our nation so that we can pass a heritage of liberty to the next generation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa proclaim January 16, 2018, as

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

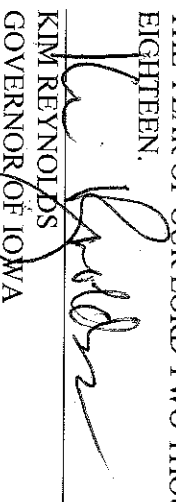
and encourage all citizens of Iowa to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in their homes, schools, work places and places of worship as an expression of our gratitude for the blessings of liberty, particularly religious liberty, and to recommit ourselves to preserve these blessings by exercising our spiritual responsibilities to pray for one another, to pray for the unity of the nation and to each do our part to restore civility in the public square.



ATTEST:


PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE
HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED, DONE AT DES
MOINES THIS 16th DAY OF JANUARY IN
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND
EIGHTEEN.


KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA