

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor

*** RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY ***

WHEREAS, religious freedom is the foundation of a healthy and hopeful society. On Religious Freedom Day, we recognize the importance of the 1786 passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. We also celebrate the first liberties enshrined in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, which guarantee the free exercise of religion for all Americans and prohibit an establishment of religion; and

WHEREAS, our Nation was founded by people seeking haven from religious persecution, and religious liberty remains one of this land's greatest blessings. As Americans, we believe that all people have inherent dignity and worth. Though we may profess different creeds and worship in different manners and places, we respect each other's humanity and expression of faith. People with diverse views can practice their faiths while living together in peace and harmony, carrying on our Nation's noble tradition of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, The United States also stands with religious dissidents and believers from around the globe who practice their faith peacefully. Freedom is not a grant of government or a right for Americans alone; it is the birthright of every man, woman, and child throughout the world. No human freedom is more fundamental than the right to worship in accordance with one's conscience; and

WHEREAS, Religious Freedom Day is an opportunity to celebrate our legacy of religious liberty, foster a culture of tolerance and peace, and renew commitments to ensure that every person on Earth can enjoy these basic human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2011 as

*** RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY ***

and call upon all Arizonans to reflect on the great blessing of religious liberty, endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and to observe this day with appropriate events, activities and fellowship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fifth day of January in the year Two Thousand and Eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-fifth.

ATTEST:

Karen Blumenthal

Secretary of State