

MAGNOLIA MINDS: A heritage to cherish and protect

*By Kenny Digby
Correspondent*

We should embrace religious liberty for all, whether at home or abroad. This includes the right of unbelievers to enjoy the liberty to have no religion – or what they call no religion. Freedom of religion does not impose freedom “from” religion on any of us.

Thomas Jefferson coined the phrase, “Separation of Church and State.” He wrote a letter to a Baptist association of churches, assuring them that the government (at any level) should not interfere with the worship and practices of any local church.

Many Baptists hold a very distorted and exaggerated view of this concept, which has damaged the influence of our churches and the integrity of our nation.

Too many Baptists say they don’t want “politics” in their pulpit. I’m afraid those Baptists mean they don’t want Bible truth in their teaching. At the Christian Action Commission, we avoid partisan politics but we’ll scream public policy based on a Bible world view from the roof top (even the church top).

We are grateful for a Mississippi governor who publicly recognizes the Christian heritage of our great state. We do appreciate public servants who respect and protect our religious liberty. Our faith is part of our foundation and fabric.

A time of special prayer in our churches on September 24, September 27, and/or October 1 for our elected leaders (at all

levels) for the upcoming elections (November and 2024) and for revival across our land is very needed and appropriate.

This Christian Heritage Week (September 24-30) in Mississippi would be a great time to form a weekly prayer group. It would be a great time to start a daily family altar. Why not renew your personal commitment to a "quiet time" to start your day – every day?

We have a great Christian heritage. What kind of legacy will we leave our children and grandchildren? Why not discuss it and pray about it September 24-30?

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Mississippi states that *We the people of Mississippi in convention assembled, grateful to Almighty God, and invoking His blessing on our work, do ordain and establish this Constitution... no preference shall be given by law to any religious sect or mode of worship; but the free enjoyment of all religious sentiments and the different modes of worship shall be held sacred. The rights hereby secured shall not be construed to justify acts of licentiousness injurious to morals or dangerous to the peace and safety of the State, or to exclude the Holy Bible from use in any public school of this State;* and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin, at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 stated: *And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. (Psalm 127:1);* and

WHEREAS, George Washington enunciated: *Animated alone by the pure spirit of Christianity, and conducting themselves as the faithful subjects of our free government, enjoy every temporal and spiritual felicity;* and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote: *And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, the conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever;* and

WHEREAS, James Madison, father of the U.S. Constitution, advocated *the diffusion of the light of Christianity in our nation* in his Memorial and Remonstrance; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Henry quoted Proverbs 14:34 for our nation: *Righteousness alone can exalt a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people;* and

WHEREAS, George Mason, in his Virginia Declaration of Rights, forerunner to our U.S. Bill of Rights, affirmed: *That it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and the charity towards each other;* and

WHEREAS, these, and many other truly great men and women of America, giants in the structuring of American history, were Christian statesmen of caliber and integrity who did not hesitate to express their faith.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim September 24 – 30, 2023, as Mississippi's 29th Annual

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK

in the State of Mississippi.

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

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 22nd day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR



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