



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor
Declaration

Whereas, all of humankind are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights among which is the Freedom of Belief;

Whereas, on January 16, 1786 the Virginia Legislature adopted the Statute for Religious Freedom, the first law enacted in the United States of America guaranteeing religious freedom and the forerunner of our Constitutional protections for religious freedom;

Whereas, all want the right of Freedom of Belief individually, and to protect that right for the individual, it is necessary to respect and protect the right for the collective whole;

Whereas, freedom of belief reduces violence in a society and increases stability, economic well-being, and cultural richness;

Whereas, in a time when divisiveness seems to be growing in much of the world, I congratulate the residents of this great state who continue to work together to build the civility and compassion so central to the spirit of Utah; and,

Whereas, I encourage all Utahns to reflect on the great freedoms we enjoy – especially Freedom of Belief – and hope such reflection will lead to an increase in gratitude and a renewed commitment to protect freedom of belief for ourselves and others, build bridges of understanding, and to treat all people with civility and respect;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare January 16, 2017, as

Freedom of Religion Day

And the week of January 16 to January 22, 2017, as

Freedom of Religion Week

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor