

State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION NUMBER 5 JBE 2019


RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

- WHEREAS,** our nation was founded on the recognition that a multitude of viewpoints and religious voices are integral to a vibrant public square, and in which religious people and institutions are free to practice their faith without fear of discrimination or retaliation by the Government;
- WHEREAS,** the United States and Louisiana Constitutions enshrine and protect the fundamental rights to religious liberty and free speech, and state law protects the freedom of Louisianans to exercise religion and participate fully in civil life without undue interference;
- WHEREAS,** protecting the freedom of religion and fostering ideals of harmony and tolerance are necessary in maintaining our democratic way of life;
- WHEREAS,** persons of all backgrounds and beliefs deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and every citizen should be free to peacefully live and work consistent with his or her religious beliefs without fear or coercion;
- WHEREAS,** for centuries, various Louisiana clergy have provided significant spiritual support for citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities, and have demonstrated leadership in times of natural disaster and civil unrest, offering comfort and hope to Louisiana's citizens;
- WHEREAS,** these clergy demonstrate a selflessness and respect for humanity, consistent with the commitments of the United States and Louisiana Constitutions, and expressing appreciation for such dedication is essential for instilling these principles in future generations;
- WHEREAS,** the citizens and clergy of Louisiana must be, and are, able to practice their faith in accordance with their personal beliefs and without undo interference for secular requirements or constraints; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana citizens are encouraged to show respect and tolerance for Clergy and for citizens of various religious beliefs around the state.

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2019 as **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY** in the State of Louisiana.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 16th day of January, 2019.


GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE



SECRETARY OF STATE