

State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, throughout American history, devout men and women from every nation have come to our shores seeking religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the beneficiary of a proud tradition of freedom of conscience, religious tolerance, and the separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1786, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom marked the first formal legal inclusion of the principles of religious tolerance, with this landmark document becoming the basis for the 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 observance of "Religious Freedom Day" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation to pay tribute to this legacy of tolerance that has made our country a place where people of different faiths live together in peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2001, as

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate this event in a manner consistent with his or her own faith.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina