



Proclamation

To recognize and celebrate January 16th as National Religious Freedom Day.

Whereas, the on January 16, 1786, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was adopted. The statute became the basis for the establishment clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and led to freedom of religion for all Americans, and

Whereas, the statute, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and guided through the Virginia legislature by James Madison codified the right of every person to profess their opinions in matters of faith, and it declares that "no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any" religion, and

Whereas, the First Amendment prohibits the Government from establishing religion. It also protects the right of every person to practice their faith how they choose, to change their faith, or to practice no faith at all, and to do so free from persecution and fear, and

Whereas, this religious freedom allows faith to flourish, and our Union is stronger because a vast array of religious communities coexist peacefully with mutual respect for one another.

Whereas, throughout the world, millions of individuals are subjected to discrimination, abuse, and sanctioned violence simply for exercising their religion or choosing not to claim a faith. History shows that nations that uphold the rights of their people -- including the freedom of religion -- are ultimately more just, more peaceful, and more successful. Therefore, we must also continue our work to protect religious freedom at home and around the globe, and

Whereas, as we observe this day, let us celebrate America's legacy of religious liberty, embrace diversity in our own communities, and resolve once more to advance religious freedom in our time.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lake Alfred formally recognize January 16, 2016 as

" National Religious Freedom Day "

in the City of Lake Alfred, Florida and urge all citizens to commemorate this day with events and activities that teach us about this critical foundation of our Nation's liberty, and that show us how we can protect it for future generations at home and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand this 4th day of January, 2016.

Charles Lake, Mayor
City of Lake Alfred, Florida