

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

COMMEMORATE

# Freethought Day



Illustration by Mike Konopacki

While there have been many holidays for saints and superstition, today we commemorate reason, freethought and the imperative need to separate religion from government.

There may be no single day of more significance in tracing the history of human enlightenment and the adoption of the scientific method than October 12, 1692.

Of all the watersheds of human history, surely one of the most seminal in terms of the elevation of thought from the depths of primal instincts was Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor William Phips' act on October 12, 1692, declaring for the first time in history that spectral evidence would no longer be admissible in court. His declaration was the first of its kind requiring that evidence must be observable by the ordinary senses, measurable and replicable. Thus ended the infamous Salem Witch Trials that had already claimed 20 innocent lives, sparing 52 other individuals barbarously charged with "witchcraft."

Theocratic forces are once more mustering a latter-day witch hunt in our land. In the name of puritanical Christian nationalist beliefs, they're imposing their religious dogma on the rest of us. They've overturned Roe v. Wade and prohibited abortions in almost half our states. Now they're targeting vulnerable LGBTQ-plus Americans, banning books and dismantling our secular public education system. They've captured much of our federal judiciary, which is increasingly using religious liberty like a sword instead of a shield.

Won't you speak out against white Christian nationalism and join those of us working to preserve freethought and secular democracy?

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Or ask for information, including a sample of our newspaper, Freethought Today

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### ★★★★ RATING

—Charity Navigator

FFRF, incorporated in 1978 as a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, is a state/church watchdog that also serves as the nation's largest association of freethinkers (atheists, agnostics) with more than 40,000 members. Our team of constitutional attorneys have remedied thousands of state/church violations. Your membership supports FFRF's ongoing litigation, "Educate Congress" campaign, student scholarships and other educational efforts.

Watch "Freethought Matters," FFRF's TV show, in 13 major cities or on FFRF's YouTube channel. Check cities: [ffrf.org/freethought-matters](http://ffrf.org/freethought-matters).

Freedom depends on freethinkers

In honor of FFRF member David Schreiber, who originated Freethought Day in 1992.

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