

WILKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE WEEK

April 21-27, 2024

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter "Board of Commissioners") adopted a resolution entitled "Christian Heritage Proclamation" at its regular meeting held on December 19, 2023;

AND WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Board of Commissioners that the United States of America, the State of North Carolina, and the County of Wilkes have benefitted from the contributions of men and women of ALL backgrounds and religious faiths;

AND WHEREAS, it is further the belief of the Board of Commissioners that the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom and that the Founding Fathers of this country sought blessings and guidance through their faith as they established a free and independent nation;

AND WHEREAS, the people of the State of North Carolina have recognized the importance of the foregoing and of the role faith has played in the foundation of this State, as evidenced by the PREAMBLE of the Constitution of the State of North Carolina, duly adopted by the people to be effective July 1, 1971, which is similar to the PREAMBLE of the 1868 Constitution of the State of North Carolina and which states: "We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution."

AND WHEREAS, the religious heritage woven into the history of this nation is acknowledged in the writings and accomplishments of such renowned individuals as William Bradford, George Washington, Abigail and John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Patrick Henry, Abraham Lincoln, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Martin Luther King, Jr., and countless others who were greatly influenced by their religious faith;

AND WHEREAS, these and many other men and women who have played key roles in American history and who have been involved in the structuring of major American institutions were persons of the highest caliber and integrity who were not only influenced by their faith and respective religious convictions but who also did not hesitate to express the same;

AND WHEREAS, learning more about these persons and about the influence of this country's religious heritage on the history of American institutions and values is important for and meaningful to all citizens;

AND WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized the importance of this nation's religious heritage in such cases as *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 79 L. Ed. 2d 604, 104 S. Ct. 1355 (1984), *Van Orden v. Perry*, 545 U.S. 677, 125 S. Ct. 2854, 162 L. Ed. 2d 607 (2005), *Town of*

Greece v. Galloway, 572 U.S. 565, 134 S. Ct. 1811, 188 L. Ed. 2d 835 (2014), *American Legion v. American Humanist Assn.*, 588 U. S. ___, 139 S. Ct. 2067, 204 L. Ed. 2d 452 (2019), *Shurtleff v. Boston*, 596 U. S. 243, 142 S. Ct. 1583, 212 L. Ed. 2d 621 (2022), *Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist.*, 597 U. S. ___, 142 S. Ct. 2407, 213 L. Ed. 2d 755 (2022), and others, having stated in *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. at page 674, "There is an unbroken history of official acknowledgement by all three branches of government of the role of religion in American life from at least 1789."

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, in recognition of the foregoing and of the broad range of religious beliefs that have helped to shape the heritage and history of this County, State, and Nation, and in further recognition of all those persons of faith who have played instrumental roles in the same, does hereby desire to adopt this Proclamation in place of the Christian Heritage Proclamation adopted on December 19, 2023, as a more inclusive acknowledgement of the importance of faith to the heritage of this country;

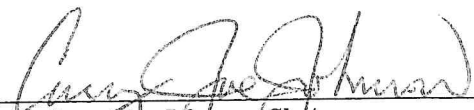
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners, in recognition of the foregoing and of the importance of religious faith and beliefs and their influence upon the foundation and life of our County, State, and Nation, and by the adoption of this Proclamation, does hereby proclaim and recognize the week of April 21-27, 2024, as RELIGIOUS HERITAGE WEEK in Wilkes County, North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners, in further recognition of the foregoing, does hereby adopt this Proclamation in place of the Christian Heritage Proclamation adopted on December 19, 2023, as a more inclusive acknowledgement of the importance of faith to the heritage of this country; and

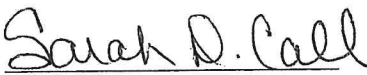
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby commend the observance of the aforesaid RELIGIOUS HERITAGE WEEK to all citizens of the County.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED by the Board of Commissioners this the 16th day of April, 2024.



By: 
Casey Joe Johnson, Chairman
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Sarah D. Call, Clerk