

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, evil forces have attempted to wreak fear in the hearts of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, our young people are particularly vulnerable to these unsettling feelings; and

WHEREAS, our nation has a long and rich heritage of seeking God in times of trouble; and

WHEREAS, current United States Supreme Court interpretation requires government neutrality toward religion and does not allow public school officials to promote or initiate student prayer or require unwilling students to participate, but requires that they not discriminate against or censor religious speech; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has said that school districts must allow religious speech on the same terms as they allow other speech; and

WHEREAS, prayer is considered religious speech and is thus protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has said that students' religious freedoms are not to be relinquished at the school door; and

WHEREAS, students have the same right to engage in personal or group prayer during the school day as they do to engage in other comparable activities; and

WHEREAS, students have a right to distribute religious literature to their schoolmates on the same terms as they are permitted to distribute other literature; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has clearly recognized the right of students to organize and participate in religious clubs on the same terms as they are permitted to organize and participate in other clubs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2001, as

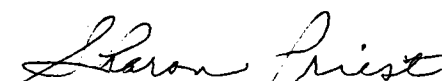
STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY MONTH

in the State of Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2001.




MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR


SHARON PRIEST, SECRETARY OF STATE