

Public Comment #18
BOS Revd. 9-19-23

From: Sheryl Trainor <sheryl.ghcot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 4:55 PM
To: BOS-District III; BOS-District V; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Letter to rescind Proclamation Item 18: 23-1763
Attachments: BOS Item 18.23_1763.docx

Please see attached letter supporting rescinding of July Proclamation

Dear Members of the El Dorado County Supervisors,

As a long-time resident of El Dorado County and a Christian, I am writing in favor of rescinding the Proclamation in Declaration of American Christian Heritage Month. The origins of our country are based on the separation of church and state- specifically the separation of the colonies from the ruling of the monarchy and the Anglican Church of England. The history behind our Revolutionary War.

At times the mixing of church and state in our history has displaced and discriminated against residents of our country. For example, the Christian philosophy of Manifest Destiny displaced Indigenous Americans from their homelands. Manifest Destiny supported the expansion of the US territories through the "mission of redeeming " and re-making the West.

Please consider how celebrating religious heritage is better expressed outside of a governing body of our county.

Thank-you for your thoughtful response to this issue,

Sheryl Trainor

District 3

From: Debra Sabino <revdebra.oursaviour@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 9:09 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Subject: Opposition to the Adoption of Christian Heritage Month
Attachments: BOS. sept 2023.docx

You don't often get email from revdebra.oursaviour@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

September 18, 2023

Dear Clerk of the Board

I am writing to express my opposition to the adoption of American Christian Heritage Month and hope that Board will vote to rescind that proclamation.

We are a nation that values religious freedom and the separation of church and state. I believe that designating a specific month for the celebration of a single religious heritage could be divisive and exclusionary. As an Episcopal priest I believe it is essential to maintain a government that remains neutral in matters of religion and that our local government remains inclusive and welcoming to all residents, irrespective of their religious or non-religious backgrounds.

Celebrating a single religious heritage could undermine the sense of unity and respect that we aim to foster within our community.

I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to rescind the adoption of American Christian Heritage Month and, instead, explore more inclusive ways to celebrate the diverse religious and cultural backgrounds of our community. By doing so, we can promote unity, tolerance, and understanding among all residents, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

The Reverend Debra Sabino



The Rev Debra+ Sabino
Rector, Church of Our Saviour
Placerville, CA 95667

THE REVEREND DEBRA SABINO

September 18, 2023

Dear Clerk of the Board

I am writing to express my opposition of the adoption of American Christian Heritage Month and hope that Board will vote to rescind that proclamation.

We are a nation that values religious freedom and the separation of church and state. I believe that designating a specific month for the celebration of a single religious heritage could be divisive and exclusionary. As an Episcopal priest serving in El Dorado County, I believe it is essential to maintain a government that remains neutral in matters of religion and that our local government remains inclusive and welcoming to all residents, irrespective of their religious or non-religious backgrounds.

Celebrating a single religious heritage could undermine the sense of unity and respect that we aim to foster within our community.

I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to rescind the adoption of American Christian Heritage Month and, instead, explore more inclusive ways to celebrate the diverse religious backgrounds of our community. By doing so, we can promote unity, tolerance, and understanding among all residents, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

The Reverend Debra Sabino

From: Ruth Carter <ruthcarterhangtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:03 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board; BOS-District V; BOS-District IV; BOS-District I; BOS-District III; BOS-District II
Subject: Against rescinding the "Christian American Heritage Month" Proclamation

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective on an important issue that concerns the values we hold dear within our community. I would like to address the recent consideration of repealing a proclamation designating July as Christian Heritage Month while retaining the proclamation for LGBTQ++ Pride Month.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize the importance of recognizing and preserving our Christian heritage. Our society has been deeply influenced by Christian values and principles that have played a pivotal role in shaping our culture, our legal system, and our moral framework. It is essential to celebrate and honor the contributions that Christianity has made to our community.

The decision to repeal the proclamation for Christian Heritage Month while keeping the one for LGBTQ++ Pride Month raises valid concerns. We must remember that Pride Month, while advocating for the rights and acceptance of LGBTQ++ individuals, has also faced criticism and controversy. Some may argue that it promotes values and lifestyles that are contrary to their deeply held beliefs.

Our government, including the Board of Supervisors, should strive to strike a balance that respects the beliefs of all community members. It should be mindful of the concerns raised by those who feel that Pride Month may conflict with their religious convictions. It is not a matter of being against Pride Month but rather a matter of recognizing and addressing the concerns of a significant portion of our community.

It is important to clarify that this perspective does not intend to condemn or discriminate against any group. Instead, it seeks to ensure that our government continues to respect the values and beliefs that have played an integral part in our community's history and identity.

In conclusion, preserving and celebrating our Christian heritage is a vital aspect of our community's identity. While we should also respect and acknowledge the diversity of beliefs and identities in our society, it is crucial to strike a balance that accommodates the concerns of those who feel that their values are not adequately represented. Let us engage in respectful dialogue and find ways to ensure that all community members' voices and beliefs are honored and respected. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Ruth Carter
530-303-2616

From: Tom Gartin <tom@faithec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:34 AM
To: BOS-District II; BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: VOTE NO - Christian Heritage Month

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To Supervisor Turnboo and the rest of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

I am opposed to the proposal of a "Christian Heritage Month" in El Dorado County (EDC) for the following reasons:

1. The claim that the nation's heritage needs to be given special and additional recognition as being Christian is absurd and deliberately misleading. The Christian heritage of some those who founded the United States and claimed territory for it is incidental to the history fo the nation. It is not the purpose of Christianity to found nations, nor was it in the name of any church that those 18th century leaders founded this one. In fact, many of them being members of the Church of England actually betrayed their faith tradition in order to rebel against King George.
2. EDC is land that was taken from indigenous people, and I shouldn't have to spell this out but the native Miwok people did not have a "Christian heritage." The fact that this board does not seek to establish a native heritage month to preserve the history of those who lived here for centuries before white settlers arrived is a testament to the spurious nature of this proposal.
3. When Christianity arrived in the hills of what is now EDC, it came with Spaniards who claimed it as conquered territory and later with American miners who sought gold. Most notably, Christianity was the professed religion of those who gave Placerville its bloody reputation as "Old Hangtown" as the US Gov't sanctioned practices of violence and intimidation that benefitted white miners even when people of color held claimstakes or ancestral homes.
4. The historic tradition of separation of church and state has long helped to mitigate the interference of government in religious practice as well as to hold some boundaries (however weak) against religious groups exerting influence in the function of governance. To establish a religion at the county level is to betray that tradition and to attempt to erase the many other faiths held by residents of EDC.
5. Today, Christianity remains the dominant religious tradition in the United States and in El Dorado County. It's adherents gather weekly to practice their faith without need of special recognition. To introduce this proposal is not to meet any actual need for preserving history, fostering goodwill among all residents of the county, or to honor those who have particularly contributed to the good of all residents of this county.
6. This proposal is a tool to signal to those residents who do not belong to the Christian Church that they are minoritized, disempowered, and unwelcome. And that is contrary to the teachings of Jesus as we have come to understand them in The Episcopal Church.

Therefore, I must voice my opposition, and urge the Board of Suoervisors to reject this proposal.

Furthermore, as an Episcopal priest, Rector of a parish in El Dorado County, and Dean of a deanery that includes El Dorado County, I urge those Christians who have supported this effort to cease this fruitless charade and return to the heart of the gospel. To love your neighbors, Christian and non-Christian in equal measure, and not to follow the course of those foolish disciples who sought only their own greatness.

Faithfully,
The Very Reverend Thomas R. Gartin

Rector, Faith Episcopal Church, Cameron Park
Dean, Capital Deanery, Episcopal Diocese of Northern California