



Triangle Freethought Society

P.O. Box 1296, Morrisville NC 27560

www.trianglefreethoughtsociety.org

RELEASE: Triangle Freethought Society Hosts First National Day of Reason on North Carolina Capitol Grounds

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For Release: Immediately

Triangle Freethought Society Hosts National Day of Reason on Raleigh, NC Capitol Grounds

The Triangle Freethought Society will be hosting events for the National Day of Reason on the State Capitol grounds in Raleigh, NC on Thursday, May 5th, from 11:45am until 1:15pm. The lunchtime program is in response to the government endorsed National Day of Prayer, and will include nationally recognized speakers:

Roy Speckhardt is executive director of the American Humanist Association where he actively promotes the humanist perspective on progressive political issues. He's appeared on CNN Headline News, Fox News, numerous national radio shows, and has spoken to dozens of local humanist groups across the country. He also serves as a board member of the Humanist Institute and the United Coalition of Reason and as an advisory board member of the Secular Student Alliance. www.americanhumanist.org

Sean Faircloth is the executive director for the Secular Coalition for America, an advocacy organization whose purpose is to amplify the diverse and growing voice of the non-theistic community in the United States. www.secular.org

Cecil Bothwell was elected on November 3, 2009, to the Asheville, NC city council. Following the election, opponents of Bothwell challenged his election because the North Carolina constitution does not allow for atheists to hold public office in the state. He was recently voted Most Courageous Elected Official of 2010 by American Atheists. cecilbothwell.wordpress.com

Todd Stiefel is a secular humanist, an atheist and full-time freethought activist. He is the founder and president of the Stiefel Freethought Foundation. Todd serves as the Vice President of the Secular Coalition for America and is the co-host of the Humanist Hour, the official podcast of the American Humanist Association. His mission is to gain respect for freethinkers and ensure the complete separation of church and state. Todd envisions a world where government favors liberty over dogma and freethinkers are overt, united and influential. www.stiefelfreethoughtfoundation.org

Why a National Day of Reason?

From www.nationaldayofreason.org -
“This observance is held in parallel with the National Day of Prayer, on the first Thursday in May each year. The goal of this effort is to celebrate reason—a concept all Americans can support—and to raise public awareness about the persistent threat to religious liberty posed by government intrusion into the private sphere of worship.”

The main purpose of the Triangle Freethought Society is to stand up for the separation of church and state. The National Day of Prayer is a clear violation of this separation.

The National Day of Prayer violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution because it asks federal and local government entities to set aside tax dollar supported time and space to engage in religious ceremonies. This results in unconstitutional governmental support of religion over no religion.

Led by fundamentalist Christian Shirley Dobson, the National Day of Prayer Task Force www.nationaldayofprayer.org promoted thousands of events specifically in accordance with its Judeo-Christian beliefs and focused on a small segment of the Protestant Christianity. Since they hold their events on the government sponsored National Day of Prayer, government officials of all levels participate in these events as if they were government endorsed.

Freedom of expression and worship, including the opportunity to pray or not pray as we wish, are already present without government endorsement. There is no need to set-aside a public day for prayer.

About the Triangle Freethought Society (TFS)

TFS was founded and incorporated in North Carolina in the autumn of 2009. It was officially voted in as a chapter of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc. during their annual meeting in November, 2009. TFS is a group of atheists, post-theists, non-theists, agnostics, freethinkers and skeptics in the Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill areas of North Carolina.

The purpose of TFS is to protect the separation of church and state as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the constitution of the United States and to educate the public on matters relating to non-theism. TFS is working for the rights of atheists and agnostics to ensure that they enjoy the same rights as religious citizens, and is working to correct the distorted image of atheists and agnostics that has been perpetrated in mainstream culture. TFS defends science education from pseudo-science, and promotes reason and compassion as an alternative to unquestioning faith in supernatural deities.

About the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc. is an educational group working for the separation of state and church. Its purposes, as stated in its bylaws, are to promote the constitutional principle of separation of state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to non-theism.

Incorporated in 1978 in Wisconsin, the Foundation is a national membership association of freethinkers: atheists, agnostics and skeptics of any pedigree. FFRF is the nation's largest association of atheists and agnostics, with over 16,000 members nationwide and about 350 in North Carolina. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). All dues and contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

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