



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Ag Commissioner Gipson Proclaims Day of Prayer and Rededication for America at 2025 Mississippi Great American State Fair**

**STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss.** – Today, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson proclaimed a Day of Prayer and Rededication for America during Senior American Day on Wednesday, October 8, at 9:00 a.m. inside the Coliseum at the 2025 Mississippi Great American State Fair.

In cooperation with the White House's America Prays initiative, Commissioner Gipson signed a proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer and Rededication for America. A copy of the proclamation is attached. Learn more about this initiative by visiting [www.whitehouse.gov/america250/america-prays](http://www.whitehouse.gov/america250/america-prays).

"I am proud to declare Wednesday, October 8, as a Day of Prayer and Rededication for America as One Nation Under God," said Commissioner Gipson. "The time could not be more fitting as we join in the nationwide celebrations of America250. We are wrapping our Mississippi State Fair in red, white and blue. Multiple patriotic festivities will be held throughout the State Fair, including several unique shows scheduled for a special, patriotic Senior American Day. So, adding this special time of prayer for America as we look toward commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation is a powerful, and timely, expression of our patriotism and enduring faith."

The annual Senior American Day event is a fan-favorite staple of the Mississippi State Fair. Doors to the Mississippi Coliseum will open at 8:00 a.m. with pre-show entertainment by the Sassy Steppers. The day's events will officially kick off with special, patriotic performances and prayer at 9:00 a.m. A historic, theatrical presentation, "For God and Country," by Pine Grove Church of Walnut Grove will highlight pivotal moments in the struggle for American freedom which began in 1776. Then, a moving musical celebration of our American freedom, "Let Freedom Ring!," will be presented by the First Baptist Jackson Choir and Orchestra at 10:00 a.m. Music legend Ronnie McDowell will then wrap up celebrations with a performance at 11:00 a.m. All church and school groups are invited to attend; admission to Senior American Day is free.

“We’re thankful to God for His faithfulness in the past, His strength and guidance for today, and we are seeking His continued direction for our future,” continued Gipson. “So, I hope you’ll join me Wednesday, October 8, at the State Fairgrounds for a day of patriotic tributes and a special time of prayer for our great country. May God continue to bless Mississippi and our United States of America.”

The 2025 Mississippi Great American State Fair runs October 2-13, 2025. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.msstatefair.com](http://www.msstatefair.com) and follow the Mississippi State Fair on Facebook, Instagram and X.

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**Photo and proclamation attached.**



**Today, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson signed a proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer and Rededication for America on Senior American Day Wednesday, October 8, at 9:00 a.m. inside the Coliseum during the 2025 Mississippi Great American State Fair.**



#### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, since the first opening prayer at the First Continental Congress in 1774, America has been strengthened and guided by Almighty God, and

**WHEREAS**, at our Nation's Birth on July 4, 1776, in connection with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is recorded that services were held and prayers were lifted to Almighty God by the Founders of our Nation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, once again in 1787 during the Constitutional Convention, upon the urging of Benjamin Franklin the Framers of our Constitution were moved to prayer by Benjamin Franklin whom it is recorded as having stated:

*We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by-word down to future ages...I therefore beg leave to move — that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.*

Benjamin Franklin, June 28, 1787

**WHEREAS**, apparently in response to Franklin's request, the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention attended a Prayer Service on July 4, 1787 at Reformed Calvinist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, at various times of great national significance, and particularly during times of great crisis, America has turned to God in prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, prayer being such an integral part of American life, in 1988 Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, called on the President to issue each year a proclamation designating a National Day of Prayer, "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals," which has been designated by every sitting President since President Ronald Reagan; and

**WHEREAS**, as our Country nears its Semiquincentennial celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America, the America250 Committee has invited every citizen to set aside time for "Prayer and Rededication of the United States as One Nation Under God" in preparation of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our Country; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is actively participating in America250's Great American State Fair initiative during Mississippi's 2025 Mississippi State Fair in support of this most patriotic celebration of America's upcoming Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that as part of Mississippi's 2025 Great American State Fair initiative, prayers be lifted by the People of Mississippi during the Mississippi State Fair, giving thanks to God for our Country, with gratitude for its past, appreciation for its present, recognition of the preservation of our American freedoms today and seeking God's strength, protection and guidance for our future as we seek to be One Nation Under God:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ANDY GIPSON, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2025, as a

#### DAY OF PRAYER AND REDEDICATION FOR AMERICA


a day set aside during the Mississippi State Fair for Prayer and Rededication of the United States as One Nation Under God as we look to the future of our Country;

I encourage all Mississippians of faith to attend and observe this day at 9:00 a.m. inside the Mississippi Coliseum.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred and forty-ninth.

  
ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER