



## EVRWP NEWS

### *CAN YOU BELIEVE IT ?????*

Monday, May 11, 2026 | Vol. 24

#### “ IN GOD WE TRUST ”

The United States of America was founded as a nation in 1776. Although the separation of church and state became central to the constitution to ensure “freedom of religion” from government dominance, the Declaration of Independence espoused a religious belief in God. Further, the culture and values since the country’s founding have been based on Judeo-Christian principles. “In God We Trust” first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864, and was adopted as the official motto of the United States in 1956. The Pledge of Allegiance references the country as “One Nation, Under God”.

To ensure the freedom of its citizens, the founding fathers set forth in The Declaration of Independence the following:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, **that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

The reason we are revisiting the foundations of our great country is due to the fact that we are finding ourselves under assault from both political and religious differences, often causing the violence that is tearing us apart. Although we believe our country to be diverse, conservatives are often charged as racists and resistant to diversity if we disagree with anything proposed by the progressive left.

In California, the Democrats have recently proposed legislation to recognize **TWO** Muslim religious holidays as **official** state holidays. Assemblyman Matt Haney (D-San Francisco) introduced AB 2017, which would designate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as official state holidays. Democrats believe that recognizing these religious holidays will provide parity with the Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter, and that any resistance by conservatives to passing the legislation is “racist” and “Islamophobic”.

First of all, Easter is neither a federal nor state holiday. Secondly, **Muslims only represent approximately 2% of the population of California, and 1.7% nationwide**, while Christians reportedly represent 65% to 70%. Secondly, Christmas has always been widely celebrated in the nation since before its founding in 1776, and “*has been recognized as both a religious **and cultural***”

**holiday**, and celebrated by many people around the world regardless of their religious beliefs.” While it commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, it has also evolved into a joyous and festive occasion involving gift-giving, sharing, and the celebration of life. “Be Merry” or “Happy Holidays” are common phrases heard during the national holiday, alongside the phrase “Merry Christmas”.

With a war torn country during World War I, World War II and the Great Depression, the celebration of Christmas gave the nation relief from the horrors and loss of life imposed on it, and a reason to move forward with it’s core belief in “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”.

## SO, WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF OUR OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS?

The historical origins of federal holidays in the United States date back to 1870, when Congress established the first four holidays: New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Over the years, additional holidays were created, reflecting various aspects of American life and history.

As noted in historical texts, “Federal holidays in the United States serve as identity marks that reflect the country’s history by commemorating significant events and honoring important figures”. Additional holidays that were added over the years to honor American life included George Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veteran’s Day and most recently Juneteenth.

Does this sound like the same basis the Democrats are using for recognizing religious Islamic holidays as **official** state holidays? The list of official California holidays, of which there are 13, do not include any religious holidays. When challenged, Christmas Day has been declared by the courts as a secular holiday and not in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution. It has become a historic holiday for hundreds of millions of people in the U.S., and children around the world awaiting their gifts from Santa Clause!!

Am I going out on a limb by suggesting that Assemblyman Haney could have proposed this legislation in the hopes of winning the votes of the Muslim community? Perhaps.

Denigrating conservatives and calling them racists for believing that there is neither a legal **nor historic basis** in the U.S. for recognizing two uniquely Islamic official state holidays is demagogic. We should not be selectively endorsing a religious holiday of one small sect of immigrants while ignoring all others.

Further, we are a historically based European country, after all, and Christmas is widely celebrated throughout the United States and Europe. It is our history. It’s part of our culture. As a country, we are not historically nor culturally Islamic. And neither are we Islamaphobic! Those that are conservative and **not** a part of the Marxist, Communist, Socialist, Anti-Semetic movement are our brethren.

### ***Can You Believe It??? YES!!!***

In conclusion, since California is culturally diverse, many companies offer floating holidays. These are flexible days that employees can use for their own traditions, such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Hanamatsuri, **or Eid**.

Thus, the actual legislation that should have been proposed by Assemblyman Haney should have been to provide “floating holidays” to state employees and their families to celebrate their unique religious

beliefs rather than pandering to one religious minority group over another who seems intent through government imposition and interference on dominating a culture of which they are a small part.

This article was authored by Carol Emmons, opinion editor for Can You Believe It?