



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and community can experience and there are 29,000 plus reported suicide deaths in this nation and over 700 plus reported deaths in Tennessee every year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the eleventh leading cause of deaths in the United States and the third leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, the elderly make up 12% of the population but comprise 18.7% of all suicides and that 775,000 Americans attempt suicide each year; and

WHEREAS, nationally, an average of one person dies from suicide every 17 minutes representing not only waste of human life but untold suffering for the families and friends of those who die in this tragic way; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of this terrible problem is the key to preventing further suffering and loss of life and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is also committed to excellence in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (S.P.A.C.) to coordinate funding and implementation of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Strategy,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2003, as

**SUICIDE PREVENTION
AWARENESS DAY**

in Tennessee, and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 28th day of May, 2003.


Governor


Secretary of State