



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the annual Conquer Chiari Walk Across America in Tennessee will be held in September 2013 in Columbia, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation (CM) is a serious neurological disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations were first classified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890s and are categorized as CM types I, II, III and IV; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance, creating pressure on the cerebellum and brainstem potentially blocking the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and

WHEREAS, the cause of Chiari I Malformation is unknown, but scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or that it can be a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one family member; and

WHEREAS, symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred vision or double vision, difficulty swallowing and sleep apnea; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2013 as

Chiari Awareness Month

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 eighth day of April, 2013.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Vignett in blue ink.

Secretary of State