



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Chiari Malformation (CM) is a serious neurological disorder affecting well over 300,000 people in the United States, classified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890's and categorized in order of severity: CM types I, II, III and IV; and

**WHEREAS**, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance. This creates pressure on the cerebellum and brain stem and may block 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 malformation's to create improved treatment and prevention plans; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2014, Conquer Chiari will hold a walk in conjunction with the annual "Walk Across America" in Knoxville, Tennessee;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2014 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 twenty-seventh day of May, 2014.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Knight in blue ink.

Secretary of State

