



Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The anniversary of the birth of Helen Keller, the most accomplished, respected, and renowned deaf-blind American in our history, falls on June 27; and
- WHEREAS: Deaf-blindness is one of the most severe of all disabilities, with respect to which some forty thousand Americans are deprived of two primary senses; and
- WHEREAS: The rubella epidemic of the 1960's, along with other pathologies, has resulted in deaf-blindness for approximately six thousand of our children; and
- WHEREAS: Because of the severity of deaf-blindness, the cost of educating, training, and rehabilitating persons who are deaf and blind is high in comparison with other disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: This high cost causes many service agencies to be reluctant to serve deaf-blind persons, thus inhibiting the independence and self-sufficiency of such persons, and frequently resulting in their placement in custodial institutions; and
- WHEREAS: Although the Helen Keller National Center and its network, and regional deaf-blind centers serve a portion of this population, inadequate education, training and rehabilitation services to the deaf-blind population represents a terrible waste of human lives and resources, imposing a high economic cost on the Nation; and
- WHEREAS: It is in the national interest to prevent this waste of human resources, foster independence, create opportunities for employment, and maximize the ability to achieve among our deaf-blind citizens; and
- WHEREAS: These objectives can be accomplished only through an increased public awareness of, and attention to, the needs, abilities, and potential contributions to society of persons who are both deaf and blind; and
- WHEREAS: It is highly appropriate to publicize the needs, abilities, and potential of all deaf-blind persons, and simultaneously to recognize Helen Keller not only as a beacon of courage and hope for our Nation, but also as a symbol of what is possible for deaf-blind persons to achieve;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the last week in June to be

HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven, and of the State the one hundred twenty-ninth.

Rudy Perpich
Joan Anderson Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
JUN 1 1987
137327 *Joan Anderson Howe*
Secretary of State