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OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, *the white cane is used by thousands of Oklahoma residents, who are legally blind, to allow them to navigate our cities and state and access its public places, schools and businesses; and*

Whereas, *with proper training, people using the white cane can enjoy greater mobility and safety by determining the location of curbs, steps, uneven pavement, and other physical obstacles in their path; and*

Whereas, *the white cane has opened the doors of opportunity to thousands of blind Oklahomans by enabling them to travel freely and independently in their communities; and*

Whereas, *the white cane is now universally recognized as a symbol of blindness that improves the safety of blind pedestrians by alerting drivers when a visually impaired person is crossing a street, parking area or other areas open to the public; and*

Whereas, *Oklahoma law requires vehicle drivers to come to a full stop at least 15 feet away from a visually impaired pedestrian using a white cane or dog guide and take such precautions before proceeding as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the person who is wholly or partially blind; and*

Whereas, *to honor the many achievements of blind and visually impaired citizens and to recognize the white cane's significance in advancing independence, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day";*

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, *Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2012 as*

"White Cane Safety Day"

in the State of Oklahoma and urge all to observe this day by recognizing the significance of the white cane both as a symbol of independence and a simple but impacting technology that enables Oklahoma residents with visual disabilities to participate more fully in the social and economic life of our state.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 21st *day of* September, *in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* twelve, *and of the State of Oklahoma in the* one hundred and fourth year.

39058

Mary Fallin

GOVERNOR

ATTEST: Michelle R Day

Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE