

# Honorary Proclamation



BILL RITTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

## STEVENS JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH August 2007

*WHEREAS, Stevens Johnson Syndrome was discovered in 1922 by 2 pediatricians, A.M. Stevens and F.C. Johnson, after they diagnosed a child with "severe ocular and oral involvement to a drug reaction"; and*

*WHEREAS, Stevens Johnson Syndrome and its offshoot, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, are severe adverse reactions to medication, including reactions to recommended drugs that help cure the three leading causes of premature death in the United States – heart disease, cancer, and diabetes; and*

*WHEREAS, more than 2 million Americans are hospitalized annually as a result of taking recommended drugs, of which 140,000 are never released and eventually perish; and*

*WHEREAS, the most commonly implicated drugs are anti-convulsants, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory medications, and it is generally thought that Stevens Johnson Syndrome, commonly considered a rare disease, may be more prevalent due to the lack of accurately reported cases to the Federal Drug Administration; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes Stevens Johnson Syndrome as a serious and deadly disease, and encourages citizens to research and become educated about the affects and prevention methods of this devastating malady; and*

*Therefore, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim August 2007,*

## STEVENS JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

*in the State of Colorado.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this eleventh day of July, 2007*

*Bill Ritter, Jr.*