

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and the related disease, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), are severe, adverse, allergic reactions to particular types of medication; and

WHEREAS: The drugs most often associated with SJS are anti-convulsants, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory medications; and

WHEREAS: More than two-million Americans fall ill and are hospitalized every year from taking these commonly used drugs. Of those are admitted to hospitals, more than 140,000 succumb to the illness; and

WHEREAS: A large number of SJS victims are children, although the illness does not discriminate based on age, race, or gender; and

WHEREAS: SJS patients suffer from inflammation of the skin and mucous membranes, especially in the eyes, lungs, and other organs; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing the early symptoms of this syndrome and receiving prompt medical attention are the most valuable tools for minimizing possible long-term impact SJS may have on its victims; and

WHEREAS: In raising public awareness of SJS, the State seeks to minimize the devastating effects of this illness among Arkansans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State, do hereby proclaim August 2009, as


STEVENS-JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

across Arkansas, and I urge my fellow citizens to promote awareness and understanding of this syndrome. Early recognition and avoidance of possible offending agents may reduce the incidence and/or severity of SJS.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12th day of August in the year of our Lord 2009.



MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR


CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE