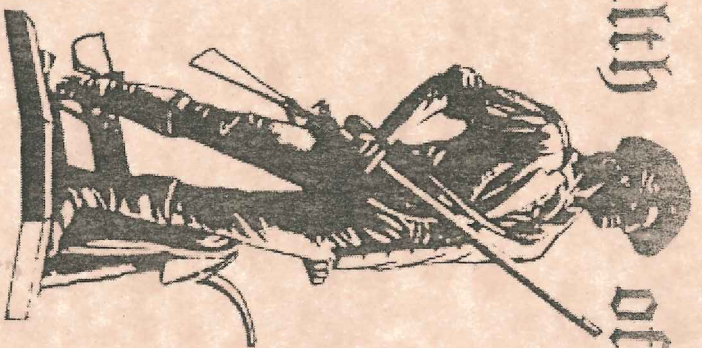


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval E. Patrick

- Whereas** Gum disease, or gingivitis, is the inflammation and infection that destroys the tissue that supports the teeth, including the gums, periodontal ligaments and the tooth sockets; and
- Whereas** Gum disease is caused by the long-term effects of plaque deposits on your teeth; and
- Whereas** Research indicates that gum disease is a possible precursor to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, some cancers and even stillbirths; and
- Whereas** Between 74-85% of Americans suffer from some degree of gum disease, but less than half are aware of it; and
- Whereas** Brushing your teeth at least twice a day and flossing at least once a day is the most effective way of preventing gum disease; and
- Whereas** By raising awareness of gum disease, the residents of Massachusetts can take measures to prevent this disease,
- Now, Therefore, I, Deval E. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 2014, to be,

GUM DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of January, in the year two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL E. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts