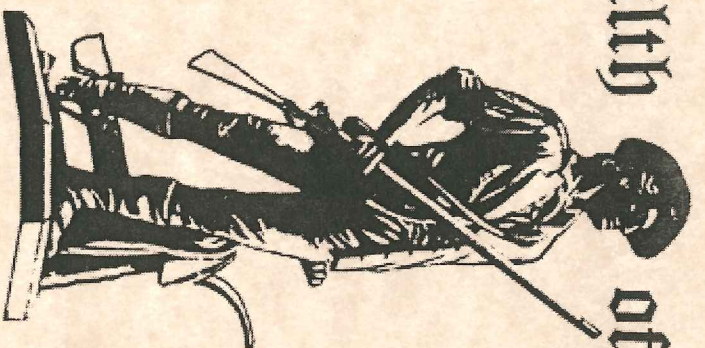


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

- ¶** **hereas** Mental health disorders affect people and families of the Commonwealth from all walks of life without regard for age, gender, race, sexual orientation, education or socio-economic status; and
- ¶** **hereas** Serious mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorders affect one in every four people annually;
- ¶** **hereas** Nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek mental health treatment largely due to stigma; and
- ¶** **hereas** Removing the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide will aid in suicide prevention by encouraging persons at risk for suicide to seek life-saving help and treatment; and
- ¶** **hereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to build awareness of mental health issues so that all people may receive adequate and appropriate treatment and live healthier, more fulfilling lives,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 13, 2012 to be,

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

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 fifth day of October, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-second.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts