



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State joins in support of nationwide observances that focus on social problems and dangers that threaten the lives of our citizens – especially youth – and the proliferation of drugs and narcotics is a primary concern among today's society as their abuse claims too many lives each year; and

Whereas, efforts to mitigate the illegal sale and distribution of narcotics and other substances remain a priority among all law enforcement agencies and officers, many of whom risk their lives carrying out perilous work to combat the trafficking of drugs and illegal narcotics that frequently end up in the hands of our children, tragically leading to a pattern of abuse and the eventual destruction of their lives; and

Whereas, those courageous law enforcement officials who dedicate their lives to fighting the scourge of drugs and narcotics within society are recognized for their critical efforts each day, and their leadership and vigilance is a powerful weapon in decreasing the distribution of controlled substances throughout this country; and

Whereas, other efforts focus on raising public awareness of the problem of drug abuse – such as Red Ribbon Week – a national anti-drug campaign initiated in 1985 as a response to the kidnapping and merciless killing of Federal Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena by drug traffickers, and similar tragedies continue to serve as a reminder that we must put the brakes on substance abuse; and

Whereas, wearing the red ribbon symbolizes a commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle, and this valuable cause aims to increase public awareness and education, calling for the mobilization of people everywhere to take action against the dangers of drug abuse and recommit themselves to the war on drugs; and

Whereas, the fight against drug and alcohol abuse must begin with education and awareness – two elements that are valuable tools in helping New York State effectively respond to drug abuse problem facing our youth, and in the 22 years since the Red Ribbon program began, there have been great improvements in measures that reduce substance abuse; however, more must be done to protect our children, and therefore it is imperative that adult role models, especially parents and teachers, discourage children at an early age from drug use and encourage them to live a healthier life;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 21-27, 2007 as

RED RIBBON WEEK

in the Empire State and encourage all to wear a red ribbon to show their support of a healthy, drug-free life.



Richard Baum

Secretary to the Governor

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifteenth
day of October in the year two thousand seven.

Governor