

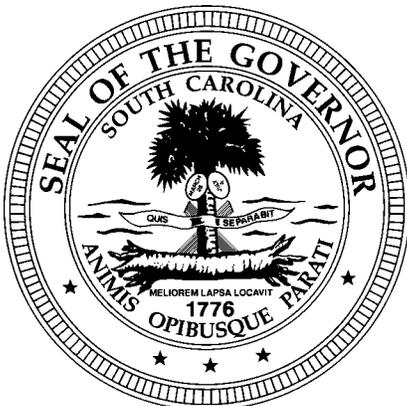
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** the white cane is a simple yet effective tool that enables citizens with visual impairments throughout South Carolina and the nation to enjoy greater independence and freedom of movement by allowing them to navigate through their environment safely, avoiding physical barriers and hazards; and
- WHEREAS,** the white cane is also a symbol of dignity and determination that serves as a tangible reminder that individuals who have impaired eyesight possess not only the desire but also the ability to lead full, independent, and productive lives; and
- WHEREAS,** established by the National Federation of the Blind, the annual observance of "White Cane Safety Day" emphasizes the need for all citizens to be aware of the presence of disabled persons in their communities and to work together to keep the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings and facilities, and places of public accommodation, amusement and resort safe and functional for the disabled; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2002 celebration of "White Cane Safety Day" provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of the Palmetto State to renew their commitment to eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers that continue to hinder the full participation of blind persons in our society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2002, as

**WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to show respect for those who carry the white cane and to honor, through appropriate ceremonies and activities, their many achievements.



*Jim Hodges*

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**