

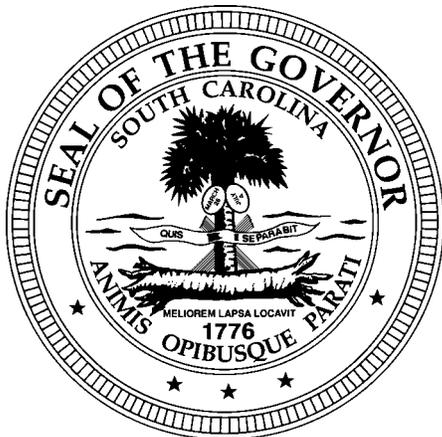
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** a stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding the brain cells; and
- WHEREAS,** stroke is the third leading cause of death in the Carolinas and the leading cause of serious long-term disability in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** with timely treatment, brain cells damaged during a stroke can be saved; and
- WHEREAS,** unfortunately, many Americans are unaware of the risk factors for stroke, most importantly hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and cigarette smoking, as well as the symptoms of an impending stroke, including weakness or numbness on one side of the body, inability to understand or speak clearly, loss of balance, dimness of vision, and/or sudden severe headache; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2002 observance of "Stroke Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation to learn more about the risk factors and symptoms of stroke, while promoting further research into the treatment of stroke patients.

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

**STROKE AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the signs and risk factors associated with stroke for the continued health of the citizens of the Palmetto State.



*Jim Hodges*

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