

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage; often the result of stroke or brain injury, it can also occur in other neurological disorders, such as a brain tumor; and

WHEREAS, many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in their right leg and right arm, due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language and movement on the right side of the body; the effects of aphasia may include a loss or reduction in ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, while intelligence remains intact; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States and it is the third largest cause of death, ranking behind diseases of the heart and all forms of cancer; it is estimated that there are about 700,000 strokes per year in the United States, with approximately one-third of these resulting in aphasia; and

WHEREAS, there are about 4.8 million stroke survivors alive today; aphasia affects at least 1 million people in the United States, with more than 200,000 Americans acquiring the disorder each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Aphasia Association (NAA) is unique. It's mission is to educate the public to understand that the word aphasia describes an impairment of the ability to communicate--not an impairment of intellect. The NAA makes people with aphasia, their families, support systems, and health care professionals aware of the resources to recover lost skills, and to the extent possible, to compensate for skills that will not be recovered, and to minimize the psycho-social impact of the language impairment; and

WHEREAS, as an advocacy organization for people with aphasia and their caregivers, the NAA envisions a society in which aphasia is a commonly understood word and where there are resources available for educating people with aphasia, their families, health professionals, and the public on how people with aphasia can reclaim their quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as

Aphasia Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in educating ourselves about aphasia, and in recognizing the important role that community support and resources plays in helping aphasia victims lead healthier and more productive lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this fourth day of March, A.D., 2009.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor