



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in the United States over 800,000 children per year are missing, and the problem of missing, kidnapped and runaway children continues to grow. Despite this number, fewer than two percent of parents have current information, including finger prints for their children; and

WHEREAS, to assist law enforcement and agencies concerned with the welfare of children, current information on children should be available. While a child's physical appearance may be altered to avoid detection, a child's fingerprints are a permanent identifying mark and should be included in the information maintained; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness on the importance of Tennessee families having current information on their children, the American Football Coaches Association, Tennessee Credit Unions and their members/owners, the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Mall.com, University of Tennessee Coach Phil Fulmer, and tens of thousands of Tennessee contributors have joined together to provide each child in public schools with an identification kit. With over 950,000 school age children in grades K-12, this effort will affect the lives of children all across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the information kit may be the best resource law enforcement and agencies concerned with child welfare have in locating a missing child. Our goal in Tennessee is to prevent children from ever becoming missing from their families. When the worst happens, our focus is to reunite that child with their caregivers as soon as possible. To accomplish this, we need to put every resource possible in the hands of those attempting to reunite the loved ones,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2000 as,

CHILD IDENTIFICATION AWARENESS MONTH

in Tennessee, and encourage all citizens to participate in this program.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 24th day of May, 1999.


Governor


Secretary of State