

# Proclamation

by

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

of the

## Commonwealth of Kentucky



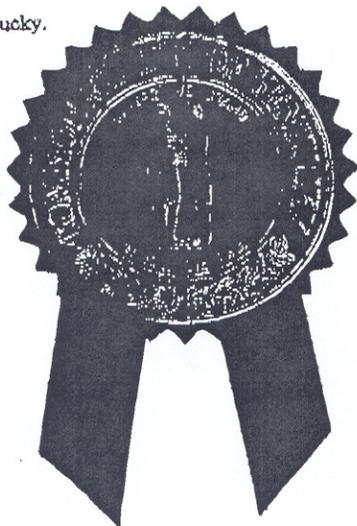
*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, More than 75 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders and more than 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain each year, making it one of our nation's most serious health problems; and
- WHEREAS, While medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated. Also, the majority of healthcare professionals are still unaware of how to effectively treat pain and most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and
- WHEREAS, According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, pain costs more than \$100 billion annually in lost workdays, medical expenses, and other benefit costs. Many citizens, especially the elderly, minorities, urban and rural poor, are unable to get treatment helping them to manage their pain due to high health care costs; and
- WHEREAS, Untreated pain may potentially rob Kentuckians of their quality of life – affecting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being; and
- WHEREAS, People who suffer from pain are too often stigmatized, marginalized, and/or often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim September 2004 as

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

in Kentucky.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Four and in the 213<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

Handwritten signature of Ernie Fletcher in cursive.

ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Trey Grayson in cursive.

Trey Grayson  
Secretary of State