**WHEREAS**, the white cane, which every blind citizen of our state has the right to carry, demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in competitive employment; and

**WHEREA**S, the proper use of the white cane, by allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for the blind to participate fully in and contribute to our society and to live the lives they want; and

**WHEREA**S, since 2008 the National Federation of the Blind, through its free white cane program, has been offering free white canes to blind and visually impaired individuals, helping them to become independent members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, every citizen should be aware that the law requires that motorist and cyclists exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person carrying a white cane or using a dog guide; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri law also calls upon employers, both public and private, to be aware of and utilize the employment skills of our blind citizens by recognizing their worth as individuals and their productive capacities; and

**WHEREA**S, the State of Missouri, through its public agencies and with the cooperative assistance of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, can and should facilitate the expansion of employment opportunities for and greater acceptance of blind persons in the competitive labor market.

**NOW THEREFOR**E, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do

hereby proclaim October 15, 2019, to be

**WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY**

in Missouri and do call upon our schools, colleges, and universities to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; upon employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and upon all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 16th day of September, 2019.

Michael L. Parson

Governor

Jay Ashcroft

Secretary of State