Text-only version of the Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week Proclamation 2023

State of New Jersey Executive Department

Proclamation

WHEREAS… Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected, and renowned Americans who was deafblind; and

WHEREAS… More than 2.8 million people living in the United States have a combined loss of vision and hearing and may be considered deafblind; and

WHEREAS… Approximately 78,000 New Jersey residents have such a combined loss of vision and hearing; and

WHEREAS… Today, people who are deafblind are attending college, joining in social activities, managing their everyday lives, and actively participating in their communities through employment, civic engagement, and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS… It is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize the accomplishments, abilities, and potential of our fellow citizens who are deafblind or have severe vision and hearing loss and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, ability, and achievement for other individuals who are deafblind, as well as the larger community; and

WHEREAS… The State of New Jersey supports the full participation of all deafblind Americans in society, which maximizes their opportunities for an empowered, productive life in the community of their choice;

Now, therefore, I, Philip D. Murphy, governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

JUNE 25 – JULY 1, 2023 as Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week in New Jersey.

(The embossed Great Seal of the State of New Jersey)

Given, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this ninth day of May in the year two thousand twenty-three the two hundred forty-seventh year of the independence of the United States.

Signature for Sheila Oliver

Lt. Governor

Signature for Philip D. Murphy

Governor