

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the central nervous system, affecting approximately 1.5 million Americans; and,

WHEREAS, clinically, the disease is characterized by a decrease in spontaneous movements, gait difficulty, postural instability, rigidity and tremor; and,

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease affects both men and women in almost equal numbers. The frequency of the disease is considerably higher in the over-60 age group, although there is an alarming increase of patients of younger age; and,

WHEREAS, in consideration of the increased life expectancy in this country and worldwide, an increasing number of people are expected to be afflicted with Parkinson's disease; and,

WHEREAS, while medication may mask symptoms for a period of time, there is no known cure, therapy or drug that can slow or stop progression of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, there is no known cause of Parkinson's Disease, but scientists believe it to be both genetic and environmental; and,

WHEREAS, in 1991, The Parkinson Action Network was founded to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of patient's with this devastating disorder. The network also supports and funds ongoing research in the hope of finding a cure; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes the efforts of the Illinois Chapter of the Parkinson Action Network to raise funds and promote awareness to fight Parkinson's disease, thereby improving the quality of life for those living with the disease; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as **PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, to raise awareness of this devastating illness and in recognition of the work of the Parkinson Action Network.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this EIGHTH day of FEBRUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
THIRTEEN, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-FIFTH

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR