

RESOLUTION 2003 - 156

A RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2003, AS NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, Epilepsy, also known as Seizure Disorder, has afflicted mankind since the dawn of our species and has been recognized since the earliest medical writings; and

WHEREAS, as long as 400 B.C., Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, repudiated ancient beliefs that Epilepsy was a visitation from the gods and sacred, or that it was a curse from the gods that people afflicted with this disorder held prophetic powers. Hippocrates believed that Epilepsy was a brain disorder; and

WHEREAS, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity, or sensory phenomena. It is a sign that certain brain cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can be caused by injury to the brain, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumor, infection, and brain hemorrhage. In sixty percent of cases, the cause is unknown; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age, and at any time; and

WHEREAS, more than two million Americans are afflicted with some type of Epilepsy. Of this number, 150,000 are Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, with the administration of anti-convulsant drugs, two thirds (66.66%) of those afflicted with Epilepsy are drug controlled, and

WHEREAS, lack of education about this disorder has contributed to age-old myths, superstitions, and prejudices; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with this disorder is sometimes worse than the disorder itself; and

WHEREAS, people who have Epilepsy make reliable and conscientious workers in job performance, productivity, safety, cooperation, and attendance; and

WHEREAS, studies carried out in the United States over the past thirty years have indicated that, of all disabilities, Epilepsy poses the greatest barrier to employment with unemployment rates estimated to fall between twenty and twenty-five percent; and

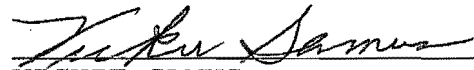
WHEREAS, Epilepsy should not be a barrier to success. In addition to the normal requirements for success, a person who has Epilepsy needs a supportive environment and employers who are willing to give them an opportunity to become productive citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 17th day of November, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners does hereby declare the month of November as National Epilepsy Awareness Month.

2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Committee for Epilepsy Awareness, 6670 Royal Palm Boulevard, Building K, Apt. 302, Margate, FL 33063-2189.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA


VICKIE SAMUS
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:


J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney


MICHAEL S. MULLIN

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