

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, the white cane and guide dog are recognized worldwide as symbols of independence, safety, and full participation in society for people who are blind; and,

Whereas, in recognition of a right to travel safely and independently, South Dakota encourages all citizens to watch for pedestrians using a white cane or guide dog, and to be aware that the law requires motorists and cyclists to exercise caution when approaching a person carrying a white cane or accompanied by a guide dog; and,

Whereas, for the past 100 years, Lions Clubs International has responded to Helen Keller's crusade against darkness by working to prevent avoidable blindness, provide vision screenings, distribute eyeglasses, support adaptive technology, and improve the quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired; and,

Whereas, the South Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired provides training in the skills of blindness, including safety and orientation classes for those facing vision loss, as well as working with employers, both public and private, to establish connections between businesses and skilled employees with vision loss; and,

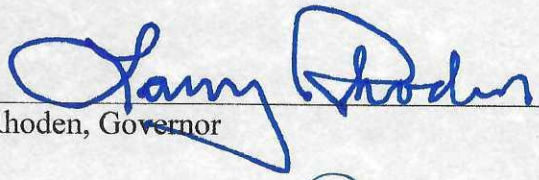
Whereas, on White Cane Safety Day, we celebrate the symbolism of the white cane as well as our great state's commitment to ensuring that all citizens can lead active lives and achieve personal and professional goals:

Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2025, as

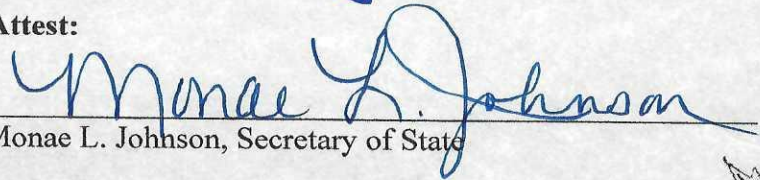
WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-Sixth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State