

A

PROCLAMATION

BY THE PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, the White Cane was invented in 1930 by Lion George Bonham of the Illinois Lions Club of the United States of America, as a walking instrument of the blind to enable them to move freely and independently and detect obstacles in their way; and

WHEREAS, since the invention of the White Cane, it has become a significant instrument to the blind: It serves as traffic sign and pleads for safety for police, motorists and pedestrians to give the right of way to the blind, and to have access to all public transports; it is a device that detects obstacles in the path of the blind, and an international symbol of blindness requesting help wherever and whenever the user finds it difficult to move freely; and

WHEREAS, through of the advocacy of the World Blind Union on the rights of the blind, the 15th day of October of every year was set aside by the United Nations to be observed worldwide by all blind and partially sighted persons, in conjunction with their respective governments as “**WORLD WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY**”; and

WHEREAS, the observance of the day is to demonstrate the significance of the White Cane to the blind in their social and economic walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the observance of the day is also significant to the blind as an appropriate opportunity to stage programs and speak out for their rights and privileges, and to petition parliaments and governments to enact and enforce laws for the protection and general well-being and welfare of the blind; and

WHEREAS, the Liberia Christian Association of Blind will join its counterparts worldwide in the celebration of the day under the **THEME: DIGNITY IS NOT PROVIDING BREAD ALONE, BUT EMPOWERING THE BLIND TO CHANGE THEIR CONDITION, AND THE CONDITIONS OF OTHERS IN POST WAR LIBERIA**”; and

WHEREAS, it is the sole responsibility of the Government of Liberia to recognize and protect the basic fundamental human rights of its citizens, including the blind:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, President of Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby declare Sunday, October 15, 2006 as “**WORLD WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY**” to be observed as a working holiday throughout the Republic, and I do request the Agencies of Government and Non-governmental Organizations concerned, to cooperate with the Liberia Christian Association of the Blind and execute programs befitting the occasion.

Since October 15, 2006 falls on Sunday, the day will be observed on Monday, the sixteenth.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF
MONROVIA, THIS 6TH DAY OF OCTOBER, IN THE
YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2006 AND OF THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC THE 160TH**

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

George W. Wallace, Jr.
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS