



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, road construction and road maintenance, performed by construction workers, utility personnel, and maintenance workers, play an essential role in our ability to be a mobile and free nation; and

WHEREAS, work zones present a challenge and potential danger to all motorists, and improvements in safety, education and driver behavior will benefit drivers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, 1,026 traffic fatalities occurred on Tennessee's roads and highways in 2008, a 15 percent decrease from traffic fatalities in 2007, which is the largest decrease in more than 15 years in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, of the 3,280 traffic crashes in Tennessee work zones in 2007, more than 25 percent involved injuries to one or more vehicle occupants; and

WHEREAS, during the period of 2003 to 2007, there were 118 fatalities in work zones on Tennessee roads and highways; and 93 percent of those killed in work zone crashes are motorists; and

WHEREAS, the most frequently occurring contributing factors to motor vehicle wrecks in construction zones are careless driving, speeding, and failure to obey signs and traffic controls; and

WHEREAS, according to NETS, The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety, one teenager is killed and seven are injured in a work zone crash in this country every three days, and studies show young drivers are more likely to be involved in work zone crashes than others, as they are more likely to take risks, be distracted, or be nervous while driving; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 98 teenagers ages 16-19 were killed in traffic crashes in Tennessee, and in most cases the teen was the driver; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that teen drivers have higher rates of fatal crash involvement than any other age group, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Governor's Highway Safety Office, Tennessee Department of Safety, Tennessee Road Builders Association, Lamar Advertising and 3M Corporation, has established a work zone driving safety program for high school students called Between the Barrels; and

WHEREAS, the young people who participate in the Between the Barrels Program gain a greater appreciation for the responsibilities that come with driving, and the knowledge they need to safely travel through work zones, protecting themselves as well as the men and women who put their lives at risk each day in work zones across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Project Orange Video Contest winner, Halls High School, will help spread the message of safe work zone driving to teens across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 6-11, 2009 as

WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 31st day of March, 2009.

Governor

Secretary of State

