



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STOP HEART DISEASE WEEK

WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability in this country and in the State of Florida, claiming the lives of more than 2,600 Americans every day, an average of one death every 33 seconds; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease accounts for over 40 percent of all deaths, claiming more lives each year than the next seven leading causes of death combined; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of males and 38 percent of females who experience a heart attack die within one year; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of men and 63 percent of women who die of a sudden cardiac death experience no previous symptoms of coronary heart disease; and

WHEREAS, men and women are at equal risk for cardiovascular disease and are also affected as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, and friends of people suffering from cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease takes an astonishing toll on the economy through health care costs, lost work days, and lowered productivity; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, there will be over 60,000 deaths per year from cardiovascular disease, and hospitalization costs to care for Floridians with heart disease will top \$17 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Stop Heart Disease Week is to increase awareness that heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability in our state, to educate Floridians that heart disease can be prevented, stopped and even reversed if corrective steps are taken, and to urge all Floridians to be screened for heart disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and well wishes to all observing February 2-9, 2009 as *Stop Heart Disease Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26th day of January, in the year two thousand nine.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor