

State of New York Executive Chamber Proclamation

WHEREAS, the scenic beauty of New York State is enhanced by the four seasons and the diverse climate each brings, yet it is important to recognize the weather-related challenges presented during these seasons; and

WHEREAS, annually, communities across this great State and the entire North Country are buffeted by severe weather occurrences – thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, and coastal and winter storms – all of which have the potential of threatening the safety of our citizens and increasing the risk of property damage; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past year, harsh weather struck in many forms, disrupting the daily lives of thousands of New Yorkers: the classic Presidents Day nor'easter in 2003 which forced the suspension of mass transit systems, stranding thousands in the greater New York/Metropolitan area; the April ice storm which severely impacted the transportation network and electric service grid in Western and Central portions of the State; and the series of strong summer storms that caused widespread flooding, tornado and high-wind damages, cutting off electric service to thousands – in each instance, the State's response was swift and effective in providing help to our citizens during these times of greatest need; and

WHEREAS, such an efficient response rate has saved untold lives and protected millions of dollars in property, and is the result of years of planning and training by State, federal and local agencies, voluntary organizations and the private sector, with a key member of that partnership being the *National Weather Service* which continues to improve its capability to track severe weather and give advance warning of impending severe weather to communities in this State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, New York State has an excellent emergency management system in place that, throughout the decades, has proven to be a highly reliable method of alerting the public about impending weather hazards, and its effectiveness is attributable to thousands of dedicated women and men who daily stand ready to meet the challenges posed by extremely dangerous weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, individual and member organizations of this vital partnership are recognized for their extraordinary services and are encouraged to continue planning efforts, training and participation in exercises – including the 16th annual New York State Hazardous Weather communications drills – in an effort to raise the levels of preparedness and responsiveness to severe weather, further ensuring the safety of our citizens and safeguarding entire communities across our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 21-27, 2004 as

WEATHER HAZARDS AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.

GEORGE E. PATAKI
Governor