



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS, the Neumann Association is hosting an art exhibit on mental illness, "Abstract Mind Mural: Art Exploring Individuals Living with Mental Illness" at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport from October to December, 2006; and
- WHEREAS, the Neumann Association is a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization that serves people with mental illness and developmental disabilities, and created the mural in collaboration with the Aldo-Castillo Arts Foundation, which provides art education and programming by highlighting diverse cultures and international artists; and
- WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Mental health, nearly 58 million adults in the U.S. — more than one in four — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. This includes such conditions as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the U.S. for people aged 15-44; and
- WHEREAS, professional artists from more than 20 countries collaborated with amateur artists from Chicago living with a mental illness in order to capture the tremendous impact that these disorders can have on these individuals, demonstrating that art is a powerful healing tool; and
- WHEREAS, the Mural includes 60 pieces by professional artists, as well as art by clients of the Neumann Association who are living with chronic and severe mental illness. The professional art is displayed alongside that of the people living with mental illness to signify the importance of keeping people with mental illness connected with the rest of society;

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October through December, 2006 as **ART EXPLORING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS MONTHS** in Illinois.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this WENTY-SEVENTH day of OCTOBER, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
*SIX, and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and EIGHTY-EIGHTH*



*Deese Witt*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Rod Blagojevich*

GOVERNOR