



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

Our history and our present are full of stories of Texans with disabilities who help make the Lone Star State great. These Texans bring unique perspectives and experiences that strengthen our state and make it more inclusive, and it is important to highlight these remarkable Texans and honor their lasting contributions to the legacy of Texas.

Texans who are deaf and hard of hearing are a part of the fabric of the history of the Lone Star State. Erastus “Deaf” Smith is famed for his role in the Texas Revolution, and in 1856 the 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature helped to ensure support for this community with the establishment of the Texas School for the Deaf.

Each September, organizations across Texas work to raise awareness on behalf of our fellow Texans and neighbors who are deaf and hard of hearing and to promote available resources for the educational and effective communication needs of these Texans. Many of these hardworking individuals build and maintain our infrastructure, provide health care and human services, educate and mentor our future generation of leaders, and serve as a piston in the engine of our world-class economy.

I encourage all Texans to recognize, support, and celebrate the many unique and individual achievements of those Texans who are deaf and hard of hearing. I thank the many professionals and educators dedicated to assisting their fellow Texans, and for their many contributions focused on aiding those who are deaf and hard of hearing in Texas. Working together, we are ensuring a brighter future for our state.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 21-27, 2020, to be

## Deaf Awareness Week



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".  
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Governor of Texas