



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, marriage is an essential aspect of human society because it helps create new families, binds men and women together in a network of affection, mutual aid, and obligation, commits fathers and mothers to their children, and connects children to a wider network of welcoming kin;

Whereas, a healthy, loving marriage deserves our respect as it provides a means for personal happiness, and creates a safe place for children to flourish and to enjoy the full emotional, moral, educational, and financial benefits of both parents;

Whereas, marriage breakdown takes a toll on the emotional, physical and financial well-being of family members and communities, and increases the cost to taxpayers of many public human service programs;

Whereas, research indicates that men and women who marry and stay married in mutually supportive relationships generally live longer, experience better health, and enjoy more satisfying lives;

Whereas, Utahns are committed to promoting enrichment opportunities and resources that strengthen marital relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment, and family well-being; and,

Whereas, I wish to applaud and encourage efforts by Utah citizens, faith communities, businesses, organizations, and local government and community leaders to strengthen marriages in a variety of ways, including marriage education programs, conferences, enrichment seminars, and public policies that support marriage;

Now, Therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare February 7-14, 2012 as

Marriage Week

Gary R. Herbert

Governor