

Office of the Mayor  
City of Fayetteville  
**Proclamation**

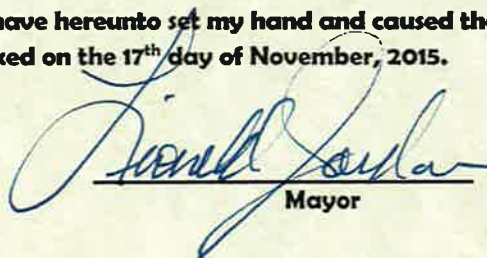


- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to fight polio, and funded the development of two vaccines – still in use today – that virtually eliminated the crippling disease, and
- WHEREAS:** having achieved its initial mission, in 1958 the March of Dimes shifted its attention from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research in maternal and child health, which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth defects, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes was a pioneer in the support of newborn screening, urging Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which in 2008 established national guidelines, and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for that core set of conditions, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes is a long-time advocate for access to health care for women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they have access to private and public health coverage, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes in 2003 launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the crisis of premature birth, and authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers (PREEMIE), which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education and services to fight premature births, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 9.6 percent in every state by 2020, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of infants, and
- WHEREAS:** the month of November is recognized as World Prematurity Awareness Month to bring about recognition of this global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Day across the United States, and
- WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants, such as its work to prevent early elective deliveries and the NICU Family Support program, and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state health policies and programs that affect women of childbearing age, infants, children and families,

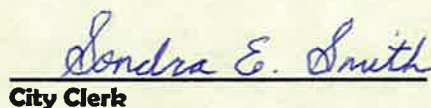
**NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim November 17, 2015 as**

**“PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY”**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

