

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the diagnosis of many esophageal cancers has remained steady or declined, certain types of esophageal cancer diagnoses have increased in the United States in the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when prognosis is poor; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer in the U.S. can be caused by persistent heartburn or gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over time; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and reason to discuss screening for Esophageal Cancer with their medical care professional; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus which can lead to an increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative techniques; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer awareness along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies will enhance the health and well-being of all Vermonters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 31st day of March, A.D. 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor