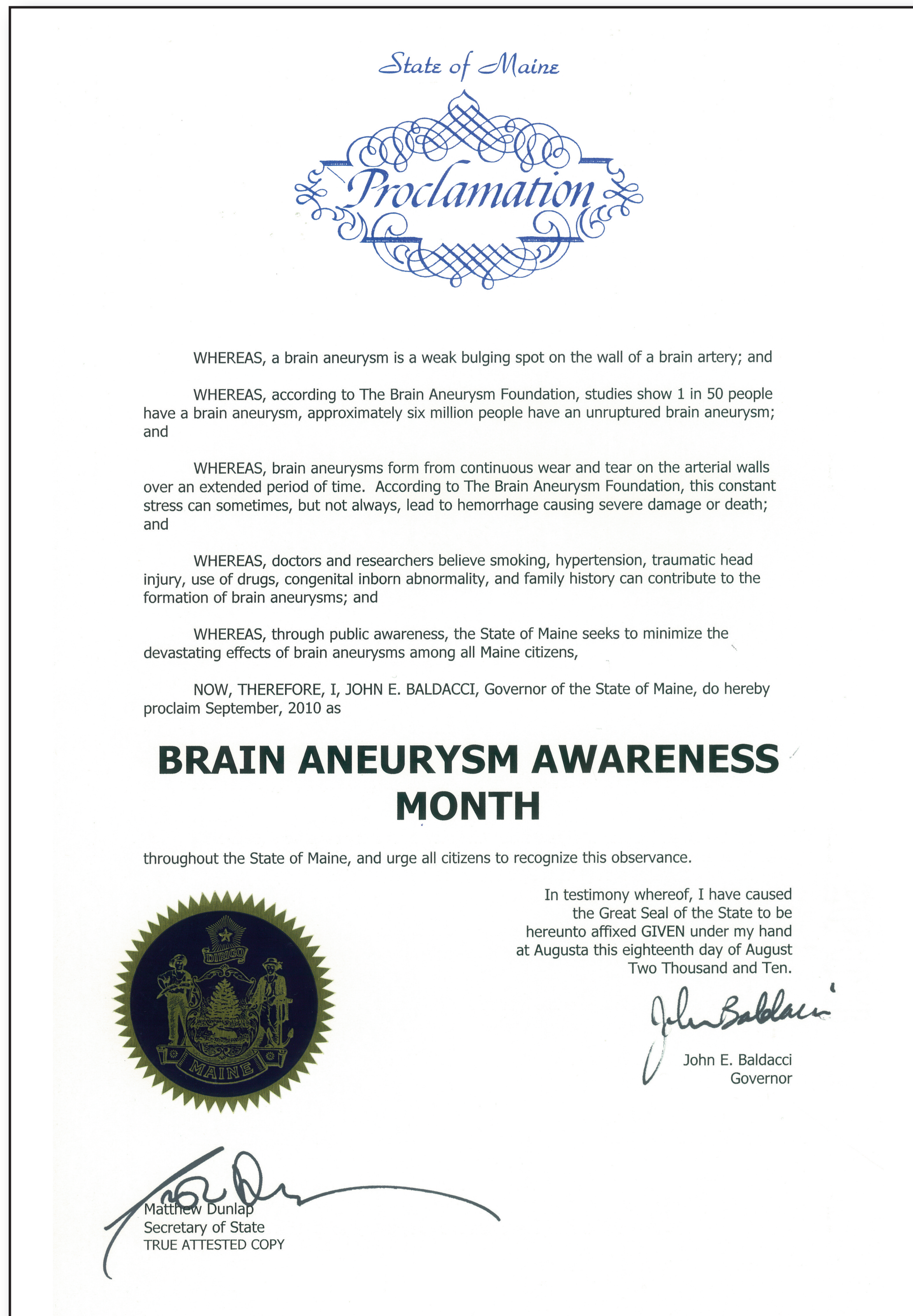


Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month



Governor proclaims September 'Brain Aneurysm Awareness' month

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci declared September to be 'Brain Aneurysm Awareness' month during a proclamation signing ceremony where he was joined by Democratic State Rep. Pat Jones of Mt. Vernon and advocates for raising public awareness about the condition.

"As a legislator and public health professional, I am concerned about the threat of brain aneurysms," said Rep. Jones. "It is important to raise the public awareness about brain aneurysms, their symptoms, and increase early detection because it can save lives."

The proclamation is part of a larger campaign to raise awareness about the threat of brain aneurysms. There will also be a walk to raise funds for the cause at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11 in Portland.

According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, a brain aneurysm is a weak spot in the wall of an artery in the brain, which can cause damage or even death if it ruptures. One in 50 people in the United States have an un-ruptured brain aneurysm and approximately 25,000 will rupture annually. Over 10,000 people will die as a result and another 6,000 will suffer disabilities.

"Three and half years ago my wife suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm and survived," said David McCausland, who is co-organizer of the walk in Portland. "We took the early warning signs seriously and sought immediate medical treatment that saved her life."

McCausland continued, "Nineteen months ago my niece, Kimberly Tudor, of Portland, wasn't so lucky, and we lost her to a sudden, undetected ruptured brain aneurysm, at age 32."

Last September, a group of Tudor's family and friends organized a memorial walk in Kim's name in Portland and raised more than \$7,000 to benefit the Brain Aneurysm Foundation – with their main goal being raising awareness and research. The second annual walk for brain aneurysm awareness, coined the KAT walk for Tudor's initials, will also be in Kimberly's honor.



From left to right: State Rep. Pat Jones, Heidi McCausland, brain aneurysm survivor, David McCausland, Kat-Walk Co-Chairman, Gov. Baldacci, Nancy Tudor, Kim Tudor's mother, Art Piteau, Kat-Walk Co-Chairman, and Barbara Dalton, Kat-Walk committee member.