WHEREAS, the state of Iowa is struck by an average of more than 46 tornadoes annually, causing an average of one death and 22 injuries per year since 1980; and

WHEREAS, 105 tornadoes struck the state in 2008, with two deadly tornadoes that year killing 13 people; and

WHEREAS, floods have resulted in billions of dollars in damage in Iowa since 1990, with record flooding and damage in 1993, 2008 and 2010; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 fatalities have occurred in Iowa due to lightning in the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, National Weather Service and local emergency management agencies' efforts to warn the population of tornadoes, flash floods, and severe thunderstorms can be reinforced by participation in drills and exercises which lead to appropriate action on the part of local governments, businesses, industries, schools, hospitals, health care facilities, and especially individual citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, National Weather Service and local emergency management agencies continually stress the need and importance of preparedness for severe storms by instruction in schools, broadcasts over radio and television, distribution of safety and preparedness information, and helping local communities develop storm spotter networks; and

WHEREAS, the laws of Iowa require tornado drills in all schools and extended health care facilities, and require mobile homes be tied down, thereby emphasizing foresight in recognizing the need for preparedness education and instruction:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim March 21-25, 2016, as

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

in Iowa, and urge all Iowans to take due notice of this occasion, and to give appropriate attention to their necessary actions during a tornado, flash flood, or severe thunderstorm event.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 10th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE