

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Surgical technologists work as members of a healthcare team alongside physicians and surgeons, registered nurses and other healthcare workers. During World War II, the need for perioperative personnel was overwhelming. The role of the surgical technologist was born and evolved into a separate allied health field.
- WHEREAS: Surgical technologists serve as an integral part of the surgical team, providing surgical care to patients. There are more than 100,000 surgical technologists in the United States, with nearly 1,000 employed in Arkansas; and
- WHEREAS: Surgical technologists work under the supervision of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of surgical procedures; and
- WHEREAS: Before an operation, surgical technologists prepare the operating room and patients for surgery by washing and disinfecting incision sites, positioning the patients on the operating table, covering them with sterile drapes and taking them to and from the operating room. Surgical technologists also prepare sterile solutions and medications used in surgery and ensure all surgical equipment is working properly. They help the surgical team put on sterile gowns and gloves and monitor for breaks in sterile technique that could endanger the patient; and
- WHEREAS: During an operation, surgical technologists anticipate the surgeon's procedures and pass instruments and supplies as needed. They also maintain a sterile field, hold retractors, assist the surgeon, set up surgical equipment and handle specimens taken for laboratory analysis; and
- WHEREAS: Once the operation is complete, surgical technologists apply bandages and other dressings to the incision site and help transport the patient to recovery. The well-being and health of patients is largely impacted by surgical technologists. Without them, patients would be more at risk for entering surgery in a non-sterile environment; and
- WHEREAS: Surgical technologists are committed to patient care -- not only at their own facilities, but also around the world. One of the most outstanding characteristics of practitioners is their desire to work in several underdeveloped countries with populations in need. Surgical Technologists have sought to help others in Africa, Haiti, the Philippines and Ethiopia, along with other nations; and
- WHEREAS: Employment of surgical technologists is projected to grow 30 percent from 2016 to 2024, which is faster than the average for many occupations. Advances in medical technology have made surgery safer, and more operations are being done to treat a variety of illnesses and injuries. Surgical Technologists Week recognizes the vital role that educated and trained surgical technologists play in maintaining a safe surgical environment for the well-being of the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 18<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS WEEK**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize and commend the exemplary contributions of surgical technologists.