**For Immediate Release**

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# March Declared Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month in [name of state]

[Date, Your City, State] – Gov. [name of governor] has officially proclaimed March Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Awareness month in the state of [name of state]. This proclamation will help raise awareness of this rare, degenerative neurologic condition that is always fatal.

[Name of state] is one of [number (or numerous if count is unknown)] states and municipalities that have officially recognized MSA Awareness Month. MSA NJ and the MSA Coalition have partnered in this awareness endeavor since 2013 and are working toward having all 50 states recognized MSA Awareness Month.

In [name of state], [group name] invites residents to participate in MSA Awareness Month by attending [details of your event] on March [date] at [time] at [location]. The movement disorder clinic at [name of institution] also will be marking MSA Awareness month.

"[Insert a personal quote here telling your story as a person living with MSA, caregiver, fundraiser, etc.]," said [name of town] resident [name].

Multiple system atrophy (MSA) — previously known as Shy-Drager Syndrome — is a rare, deadly neurodegenerative condition, with fewer than 15,000 Americans diagnosed and 35,000 undiagnosed at any given time.

According to the National Institutes of Health, MSA is characterized by:

* Symptoms of autonomic nervous system failure such as fainting spells due to a condition called neurogenic orthostatic hypotension, as well as bladder control problems
* Motor control symptoms such as tremor, rigidity, and loss of muscle coordination, similar to Parkinson's disease.

MSA affects both men and women, usually starting in their 50s or early 60s. MSA tends to advance rapidly over the course of five to 10 years, with progressive loss of motor skills, eventual confinement to bed, and, ultimately, death.

There is no known cause, cure, or treatments that result in remission.

Several charities represent MSA interests in the U.S., with the largest being the Multiple System Atrophy Coalition. To learn more about MSA, MSA Awareness Month, and our advocacy activities, visit [www.multiplesystematrophy.org](http://www.multiplesystematrophy.org) and [www.msanj.org](http://www.msanj.org)

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