



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Supreme Court Rule 31 was enacted in January of 1996 to establish court-based alternative dispute resolution on a state-wide basis; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the actions of the legislature, there are hundreds of VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program) mediators and eleven state-funded VORP centers in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the enactment of Rule 31 by the Tennessee Supreme Court, there are 968 active Rule 31 mediators in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, mediation in Tennessee continues to grow and assist the courts and citizens in alternative dispute resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee wishes to acknowledge the contribution of mediation and encourage its further growth; and

**WHEREAS**, governmental entities across the United States are proclaiming October 18th as an official day of recognition for conflict resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October, 2008 as

## MEDIATION MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 12th day of August, 2008.

Handwritten signature of Phil Bredesen in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Riley O. Darvell in blue ink.

Secretary of State