

**A Proclamation of  
BULLYCIDe AWARENESS DAY  
Be It Resolved...**

**WHEREAS**, on April 20th, 1999, a school shooting took place at Columbine High School in Colorado - the terror ended in the death of fifteen students, a teacher, and the suicides of the shooters; several students were wounded; *Columbine was real*; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2007, the Virginia Tech shooting, the nations deadliest school shooting - the terror ended in the death of thirty-two individuals, including the suicide of the shooter; several students were wounded; *Virginia Tech was real*; and

**WHEREAS**, these tragedies left an unforgettable mark in U.S. history, and in our hearts and memories; bullies, victims, terrorists - *the cause and effects are related and are real*; and

**WHEREAS**, educators, parents and community members recognize the warnings and lessons to be taken from these tragedies and the importance of being proactive in preventing the beginnings of such destructive behavior that is in our schools today; *bullying...school terrorism...is real*; and

**WHEREAS**, many children are faced with terror, daily, through harassment, assaults and verbal threats in our schools, on the playground, on school busses; for many children school is a battlefield; thus, a source of terrorism; and

**WHEREAS**, educators must come together with parents and community members to safeguard schools for our children, and, through our recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, offer our children a school environment that provides a positive, safe and secure learning climate – where all children feel they belong, and know that they are respected for who they are - promoting excellence in citizenship; and one that includes a bully prevention program to help ensure fair and effective discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, educators, parents and community members have publicly expressed concern about the war in our schools – the bullying of our children; it is important that we acknowledge and heighten awareness about this serious issue, and the negative effects of bullying, including the long-term damage it can cause; far too often bullying results in “bullycide” a suicide attributed to bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the personal responsibility of all citizens to protect our children; it is time for us to stand up, speak out and take action against bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, in remembrance of Columbine High School, Virginia Tech and the loved ones that have been lost to the tragic effects of bullying, and bullycide, we must persevere in our year-round battle against bullying, and **it is appropriate that we designate September 29, 2007 and September 29<sup>th</sup> thereafter, as Bullycide Awareness Day.**

Written by Robin Todd, Bully Police Arizona Director