

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation therapists have taught the primary skills of independent living for individuals with vision loss or blindness in Vermont since 1974; and

WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation specialists have traveled across the state to teach Vermont residents, who were blind or partially sighted, to learn daily living skills such as braille, recorded books, and adaptive techniques for daily activities such as cooking, home management, financial management, personal care, and leisure activities; and

WHEREAS, through state and non-profit collaboration, there are a small group of specially trained, itinerant, vision rehabilitation therapists who provide the primary vision rehabilitation training and carry on the important work of delivering independent living skills to blind and partially sighted Vermont residents in their homes and places of employment; and

WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation therapists provide these services in conjunction with other vital vision rehab professionals such as orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of the visually impaired, certified assistive technology instructional specialists, state vocational rehabilitation counselors, and state rehabilitation associates; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont State Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI), the Association of Educators and Rehabilitation Professionals (AER), the Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (AVRT) recognize Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (VRT) Appreciation Week from April 14 - 20; and

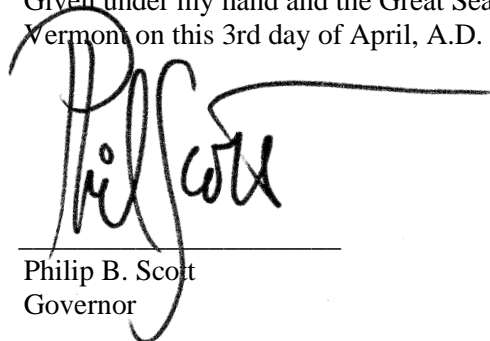
WHEREAS, April 14th is Anne Sullivan's birthday, a home teacher of Helen Keller, who is considered one of the first vision rehabilitation therapists; and

WHEREAS, blindness and vision loss constitute a significant disability affecting all aspects of independent function, we celebrate this small group of professionals who are dedicated to improving the lives of Vermont residents, supporting and advocating for their independence and self-determination, while significantly reducing the cost to Vermont communities and health care systems.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the April 14 - 20, 2024, as

VISION REHABILITATION SERVICE APPRECIATION WEEK
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 3rd day of April, A.D. 2024.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs