[PROCLAMATION NO. 462, September 09, 2003]

DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS SURGEONS' WEEK

WHEREAS, the nation recognizes that the practice of surgery plays a vital part in saving lives and maintaining good health, which are essential and indispensable to the well-being of the people and to the success of nation-building;

WHEREAS, the Philippine College of Surgeons is recognized for its role in training current and prospective surgeons; which includes Cancer prevention and control, infection surveillance and control, national trauma control program in cooperation with the Department of Health and other government agencies; and its assistance to the Department of Health thru the surgical Manpower Development project, to upgrade and improve the competency of surgeons in government hospitals;

WHEREAS, the Philippine College of Surgeons will ultimately initiate a joint project with the Department of Health and the Medicare Commission, to expand complete coverage to Medicare patients in surgery;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that public attention be drawn and awareness be focused on these worthy endeavors of the Philippine College of Surgeons;

WHEREAS, it is but fitting to give recognition and tribute to the surgeons in the land.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of them powers vested in me by law, do hereby, declare; the first week of December of every year as **Surgeons' Week**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 9th day of September, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Executive Secretary