



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the health, safety and well-being of all Virginians are important to the happiness, livelihood and prosperity of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in our Commonwealth of Virginia, and it is important for the public to understand that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection, and greater awareness of this cancer and the means to prevent it could save the lives of tens of thousands of individuals in the Commonwealth of Virginia and these United States each year; and

WHEREAS, early detection of colorectal cancer could save the more than half of the 51,690 Americans—of which 1,290 are Virginians—expected to die of colorectal cancers in the United States this year, and it important to note that regular colorectal cancer screening has been ranked as one of the most cost effective screening interventions available, with the potential to save 32,000 lives a year; and

WHEREAS, only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage, and it is important to recognize that the survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early stages versus only a 12 percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer affects men and women equally, and 1 in 20 men and women will be diagnosed with cancer of the colon or rectum during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could be reduced by up to 60 percent; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives are significantly less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer compared to Whites, and it is important to recognize that among African-Americans incidence rates are more than 22 percent higher and mortality rates are about 45 percent higher than rates among Whites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize March 2012 as **COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth