



## 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:*

### CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Virginia farmers grow Christmas trees on thousands of acres across the state for wholesale, retail and choose-and-cut customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia farmers produce numerous varieties including spruce, pine, fir and cedar as fresh cut, cut-your-own or live trees; and

**WHEREAS**, the fresh appearance and fragrant aroma of a live Christmas tree has been part of family and corporate tradition for more than 250 years in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, real Virginia Christmas trees contribute to a healthy environment by adding oxygen to the air, providing wildlife habitat and increasing soil stability; and

**WHEREAS**, purchases of real Virginia Christmas trees benefit the growers, the environment and the state's economy as well as those who enjoy the tree's freshness, fragrance and lasting beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Christmas trees are a renewable resource and for every one harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place; and

**WHEREAS**, consumers can drive an hour or less in any direction in Virginia and find fresh Virginia grown Christmas trees to purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, Christmas tree farming is part of Virginia's most economically important industry, agriculture, and buying real Christmas trees from Virginia growers helps them maintain their agricultural operations and helps expand the overall economy of the state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize December 2011 as **CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth