# 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 Commonwealth, and produce numerous varieties including spruce, pine, fir and cedar as fresh cut, cut-your-own or live trees; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Minnegerode, a professor at the College of William and Mary, introduced the German custom of the Christmas trees to the citizens of Williamsburg in 1842 when he decorated a tree with strings of popcorn, gilded nuts and lighted candles; 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**, real Virginia Christmas trees contribute to a healthy environment by adding oxygen to the air, providing wildlife habitat and increasing soil stability; 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 2010 as **CHRISTMAST TREE MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

Governor

Secretary of the Commonwealth