



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:

**25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE "VIRGINIA'S FINEST[®]" TRADEMARK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, agriculture, Virginia's largest industry, contributes significantly to the overall economy of the state, generating \$52 billion annually as well as 357,000 jobs in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the "Virginia's Finest[®]" Trademark Program was created by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1989 to identify, differentiate and promote top quality agriculture products produced or processed in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, only the highest quality specialty foods and processed agriculture products which meet standards set by the industry and approved by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services earn the right to be called "Virginia's Finest[®]"; and

WHEREAS, "Virginia's Finest[®]" has enhanced the economic opportunities and success of Virginia's specialty food companies, processors, and agricultural producers and has benefited them through increased sales and enhanced awareness of their products; and

WHEREAS, in the 25 years since the program began, "Virginia's Finest[®]" has helped the Commonwealth gain a reputation for agricultural excellence in the domestic and international marketplace, promoting a wide range of Virginia specialty products, including, meats, cheeses, peanuts, condiments, confections, baked goods, beverages, sauces, soups and seafood; and

WHEREAS, "Virginia's Finest[®]" has helped the Commonwealth gain a reputation for agricultural excellence in domestic and international marketplaces:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize 2014 as the 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "VIRGINIA'S FINEST[®]" TRADEMARK PROGRAM in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



A blue ink signature of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe, written in a cursive style.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Jewar M. Jones, written in a cursive style.

Secretary of the Commonwealth