



## 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:*

### **POLLINATOR WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, pollinator species such as honey bees, other insects and birds are essential partners of farmers in producing much of our food supply; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia oversees over 27 million acres of land, 8.1 million acres of which is farmland; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture in the Commonwealth is the state's largest industry, with an economic impact of \$55 billion annually; and

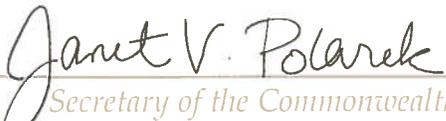
**WHEREAS**, important Virginia crops such as apples, peaches, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and berries are dependent on pollinators to fully develop their fruits and seeds; and

**WHEREAS**, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our farms, state forests, coastal plains, wetlands and grasslands, which sustain abundant populations of wildlife and fish and provide opportunities for economic development and recreation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize June 18-24, 2012 as **POLLINATOR WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth