



## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

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

### **VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH**

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

**WHEREAS**, Virginia ranks in the top 10 states in terms of total Christmas trees harvested, total tree acreage, and number of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, real Christmas trees are renewable, recyclable, and natural products grown on more than 500 farms throughout the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia growers deliver the spirit of the holiday season by donating thousands of Christmas trees to military families each year through the Trees for Troops program; 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 contributes to the overall economy of our Commonwealth;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize December 2014 as **VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jewell M. Taylor in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of the Commonwealth