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:

9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, 9–1–1 is nationally recognized as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from police, fire, emergency medical services, or other appropriate emergency response entities; and

WHEREAS, 9–1–1 was designated by the General Assembly in 2000 to be as the only emergency telephone number in Virginia (§ 56-484.16); and

WHEREAS, the 9–1–1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in Virginia and is often the first place emergencies of all magnitudes are reported, making 9–1–1 a significant homeland security asset; and

WHEREAS, the growth and variety of means of communication, such as text messaging and Internet-based phones; and the needs of the population, such as hearing or speech impaired and non-English speaking people; impose challenges for accessing 9–1–1 that can be reduced through increased education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, the 9–1–1 system is often misused, including the placement of prank and nonemergency calls which is costly and can delay the response to a true emergency; and

WHEREAS, thousands of 9–1–1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9–1–1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9–1–1; and

WHEREAS, parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9–1–1 education for children, but so only after being properly educated themselves; and

WHEREAS, people of all ages use 9–1–1 and it is critical to educate those people on the proper use of 9–1–1; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize **April 2011** as **9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens and encourage parents, teachers and all citizens to become educated on the proper use of 9-1-1.

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

Janet V. Polarek
Secretary of the Commonwealth