



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:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can be devastating for not only the survivor, but also for the family and friends of the survivor; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victims/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victims/survivors; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of sexual assault provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing sexual violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize April 2010 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Robert F. McDonnell

Governor

Janet V. Polarek

Secretary of the Commonwealth