

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:

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

WHEREAS, September is National Preparedness Month, a time set aside to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has suffered both natural disasters and human-caused emergencies that have resulted in tragic loss of life and property, including the terrorist attack on the Pentagon September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, nearly three out of four Virginia residents do not have four essential supplies on hand to help during emergencies, with those supplies consisting of a family emergency plan, three days' food that won't spoil such as canned and packaged foods, three days' water amounting to one gallon per person per day, and a hand-crank or battery powered radio and extra batteries to hear emergency information; and

WHEREAS, those who are at least minimally prepared for emergencies recover faster and can help others who also may be affected, demonstrating community spirit in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility, and every family that is able should prepare to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after disaster strikes; and

WHEREAS, the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean and rolling and mountainous terrain put our Commonwealth at risk each year for the damaging effects of both offshore and inland hurricanes and tropical systems; and

WHEREAS, historically September begins the prime season for the threat of tropical systems and flooding throughout Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize September 2010 as **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I encourage all citizens to be ready by taking steps to prepare for emergencies at home, at work and in our communities.