



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:

OLDER VIRGINIANS MONTH

WHEREAS, since 1963, the month of May has been designated by the United States Administration on Aging as America's special time to honor and recognize its older citizens; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme for May is *Working Together for Strong, Healthy, and Supportive Communities*, which speaks to the opportunities we have to create better care and reinforce healthier societies for all ages; and

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 1 million Virginians age 60 and older and this population will expand to more than 2 million by 2030 when one in every four Virginians will be age 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, one out of every nine baby boomers will live to be at least age 90; and

WHEREAS, healthy lifestyle choices can prevent or control many of the Commonwealth's leading causes of death; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40% of deaths are linked to smoking, physical inactivity, poor diet, or alcohol abuse; and

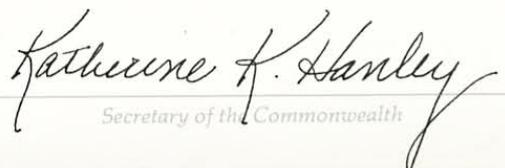
WHEREAS, there is now strong scientific evidence that it is never too late for healthy life-style choices to positively, and often greatly, impact the physical, emotional, and mental health of older persons; and

WHEREAS, older Virginians deserve the right to a healthy and active old age and are encouraged to make those healthy choices that will help them maintain their independence in their homes and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby join with the Virginia Department for the Aging, the Commonwealth Council on Aging, and Virginia's twenty-five local Area Agencies on Aging in recognizing May 2008 as **OLDER VIRGINIANS MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA** and I call this observance to the attention of citizens of all ages.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth