



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:

FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, well-being, and prosperity of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 900,000 Virginians currently assist family and friends in need of care, supporting their independence and enabling them to continue living in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, the most valuable support to the health and well-being of older Virginians and those with disabilities is the network of informal caregiving provided by family and friends, performing support equivalent to nearly \$10 billion in services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to caring for older relatives, thousands of older Virginians also serve as caregivers for over 112,000 grandchildren, many of whom have no parents present in the home, and some of whom are children of military personnel who are deployed abroad; and

WHEREAS, a caregiver's average annual out-of-pocket expense of providing support is approximately \$5,500, with an additional \$304,000 in lost wages, lost pension, and negative impact on Social Security realized across a caregiver's lifespan; and

WHEREAS, caregivers often experience a toll on their own physical and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer efforts of the Virginia Caregiver Coalition have provided education and supported public policies to address the needs of family caregivers for more than seven years while also working with the Virginia Department for the Aging, public, private, state and local partners through the Lifespan Respite Care Program to identify and expand respite resources and services, as well as advocate for families providing support to Virginians of all ages;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize November 2011 as **FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth