



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH

WHEREAS, Virginia farmers grow numerous varieties of Christmas trees on 500 farms across the Commonwealth for wholesale, retail, and choose-and-cut customers; and

WHEREAS, Virginia ranks in the top 10 states in terms of total Christmas trees harvested, total tree acreage, and number of operations; and

WHEREAS, Virginia growers deliver the spirit of the holiday season by donating hundreds of Christmas trees to military families each year through the Trees for Troops program; and

WHEREAS, Virginia grown Christmas trees are renewable, recyclable, and natural products, and for every tree cut growers replant two-to-three seedlings in its place; and

WHEREAS, Christmas tree farming is part of Virginia's most economically important industry (agriculture), and buying real Christmas trees from Virginia growers helps them maintain their agricultural operations and contributes to the overall economy of our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a day spent on a Christmas tree farm is a venerable holiday tradition for thousands of Virginia families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize December 2017 as **VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS TREE MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth