



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:

VIRGINIA AVIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, aviation plays a critical role in the lives of the Commonwealth's citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is home to sixty-six public-use airports, of which nine offer airline service to destinations across the country and around the world; and fifty-seven are general aviation facilities offering convenient business and recreational access to communities throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's aviation system provides a total of \$28.8 billion of economic benefit to our communities including \$7.6 billion in economic benefit from airport dependent businesses and 259,000 jobs for the citizens of the Commonwealth equaling over \$11 billion in wages; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 14,000 pilots and over 6,000 business and recreational aircraft including single-engine and multi-engine airplanes, helicopters, gliders and business jets based in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, general aviation benefits all Virginians through private, corporate, charter, and air taxi travel; shipping and express freight service, environmental protection and firefighting; search and rescue; air medical transport; public safety and law enforcement; agriculture; weather and traffic reporting, recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has been voted "Best State for Business" by *Forbes* magazine four years in a row and business aviation has played a big role in earning that title; there are 220 companies in the Commonwealth that belong to the National Business Aviation Association, the leading organization for companies that rely on general aviation aircraft to help make their businesses more efficient, productive and successful; and

WHEREAS, forty-three scheduled air carriers serve our Commonwealth citizens with over 24.5 million domestic and international enplanements annually and also provides the international community access to Virginia's travel destinations, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth provides more than \$19 million and leverages over \$81 million in federal funds annually for the capital improvements of airports dedicated to the development of runways, taxiways and terminals that make Virginia's an exemplary air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Aviation's vision is to be the standard of excellence amongst state aviation agencies and make the Virginia aviation system the model air transportation system, providing Virginia communities economic development opportunities and convenient access to the national air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, this has led DOAV to become the first state aviation agency in the nation to earn both the IS-BAO and ISO 9000 certifications, while working to become the first state where every public-use airport will have weather reporting and approaches to every runway end, providing better business access to every public airport in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has eight aviation-related museums including the Virginia Aviation Museum, Virginia Air and Space Center, U.S. Army Transportation Museum, National Air and Space Museum: Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, NASA Wallops Visitor Center, NASA Langley Research Center, National Museum of the USMC, and Military Aviation Museum;

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




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth