



## 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 BEEKEEPERS' WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, honeybees first arrived in Virginia in 1622 as cargo to Jamestown and assisted the colonists by contributing candle wax, honey and medical resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in the years after the founding of Jamestown, farmers realized that pollination by honeybees increased Virginia's crop production and quality of crops such as apples, peaches, cucumbers, watermelons, soybeans and cotton and today adds an estimated \$74 million to the value of the harvest; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past twenty years the number of Virginia bee hives and beekeepers has decreased over 50% even as forecasters predict that additional honeybees will be needed for an expected increase in fruit and vegetable crops; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia State Beekeepers' Association, organized in 1918, has worked tirelessly to identify and resolve the plight of the beekeeping industry through research, education and expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia State Beekeepers' Association is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and nine decades as a reliable resource and respected leader by introducing beekeeping to newcomers, continuing the education of experienced beekeepers through meetings and classes, and implementing new techniques to combat the decline of the beekeeping industry in the Commonwealth; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize November 1-8, 2008 as **VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS' WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Governor

Secretary of the Commonwealth