



## 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:*

### **BILL CLIFTON**

**WHEREAS**, from his recording debut nearly sixty years ago, Bill Clifton has contributed greatly to the popularity of bluegrass music in the Commonwealth and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Clifton organized and promoted a musical event at Oak Leaf Park in Luray, Virginia on July 4, 1961, this event was the first music festival to include an all bluegrass music lineup; and

**WHEREAS**, the bluegrass musical groups performing at this festival included: Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys, Mac Wiseman, the Stanley Brothers, Bill Clifton and the Dixie Mountain Boys, the Country Gentlemen and Jim & Jessie and the Virginia Boys; and

**WHEREAS**, from this single event evolved thousands of bluegrass festivals around the world, which are held every year; and


**WHEREAS**, in 2008, Mendota, Virginia resident Bill Clifton was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame for his distinguished career and his many contributions to the continued popularity of bluegrass music; and

**WHEREAS**, from July 2-4, 2011, the Oak Leaf Bluegrass & Mountain Music Festival at Luray, Virginia will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historical moment in Virginia history;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize **BILL CLIFTON** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens; and

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2011.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth