



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 BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL MONTH

WHEREAS, for generations, bluegrass music has been an important part of Virginia's cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah Valley is credited with the development of the mountain dulcimer, is the birthplace of American gospel music, shape-note singing, the World's First Bluegrass Festival, Patsy Cline, Mac Wiseman, Larry Stephenson, the Statler Brothers, Nothin' Fancy and hundreds of bands and musicians whose musical styles have set the standard for American roots music; and

WHEREAS, it is important to promote and raise awareness of bluegrass music in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia resident, Bill Clifton organized and promoted a musical event at Oak Leaf Park in Luray, Virginia on July 4, 1961; and

WHEREAS, this event was the first music festival to include an all bluegrass music lineup; and


WHEREAS, the bluegrass musical groups performing at this first 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, from July 2-4, 2011, the Oak Leaf Bluegrass & Mountain Music Festival at Luray, Virginia will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this important moment in Virginia's history and the Commonwealth's rich heritage of bluegrass music;

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




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth