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:

ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, more than one million Virginians are currently over the age of sixty, and the population of older Virginians will increase to more than two million, one quarter of Virginia's population, in the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2007 Virginia Adult Protective Services received over 13,500 reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, older and disabled Virginians may be targets for abuse, which can occur in families and communities of all social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce the incidence of adult abuse in Virginia, there exists a number of adult abuse prevention programs statewide that provide vital services to older and disabled Virginians including 24-hour hotlines, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, home-based and community services, public education, and legal advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Adult Abuse Prevention Month offers all Virginians the opportunity to remember victims of adult abuse and their families, to promote the programs and organizations that serve them, and to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of all people throughout our Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize May 2008 as **ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,** and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Governor

Katherine K. Hanley

Secretary of the Commonwealth