



# 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:*

## PARALEGALS' WEEK

**WHEREAS**, legal assistants and paralegals provide skilled and essential professional services to licensed attorneys throughout Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, legal assistants and paralegals receive formal education and training and gain valuable experience working under the supervision of licensed attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Alliance of Paralegal Associations (VAPA) issues educational standards and professional guidelines to ensure that legal assistants are competent and knowledgeable about their field; and

**WHEREAS**, the research and administrative duties performed by legal assistants and paralegals are essential to the ability of attorneys to provide their clients with quality legal services and representation; and

**WHEREAS**, VAPA member organizations sponsor educational programs, seminars and forums designed to bring legal assistants together to exchange ideas and methods used in their occupation; and

**WHEREAS**, VAPA encourages legal assistants and paralegals to adhere to a high degree of ethical and professional conduct and proficiency by issuing a code of ethics for legal assistants and paralegals to practice;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize October 4-10, 2009 as **PARALEGALS' WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kaine in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Katherine F. Hanley in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth