



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:

**75th ANNIVERSARY of the
WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, it is important to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, hunters, anglers, and trappers in Virginia and other states were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of agencies to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats, and upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations supported the development of a system to raise additional funds to support restoration; and

WHEREAS, in 1937 a Virginian, United States Representative A. Willis Robertson, former member of the Senate of Virginia and former Chairman of the Virginia Game Commission, co-sponsored the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, which became known as the Pittman-Robertson Act; and

WHEREAS, the Pittman-Robertson Act led to a user pay-public benefit system so successful that in 1950 a companion Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act was passed; and

WHEREAS, by ensuring dedicated funding derived from sales of hunting, fishing, and boating equipment, the Pittman-Robertson program has contributed to the re-enforcement of sound biological wildlife management and helped to shape the core concepts of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation in Virginia and across the country; and

WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFR) to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded \$13 billion nationwide and constitutes the American System of Conservation Funding; and

WHEREAS, the WSFR Programs have proved to be the milestone for wildlife management and conservation ethics, while continuing to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, fishing, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturers of hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have supported the WSFR Programs and continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies, including the Commonwealth's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Marine Resources Commission; and

WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring fish and wildlife populations throughout Virginia and the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize the **75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of 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 sixteenth of May, two thousand twelve year and in the two hundred thirty-sixth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth