



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

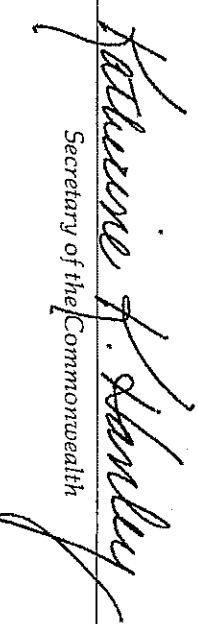
WHEREAS, VAPA encourages legal assistants and paralegals to adhere to a high degree of ethical and professional conduct and proficiency by issuing a code of ethics for legal assistants and paralegals to practice;

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.





Governor



Secretary of the Commonwealth