



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:

SAVE THE FROGS DAY

WHEREAS, amphibians are in considerable peril in Virginia, and worldwide, nearly one-third of the world's 6,435 amphibian species are threatened with extinction and at least 150 species have completely disappeared since 1979, making amphibians the most threatened group of animals on Earth; and

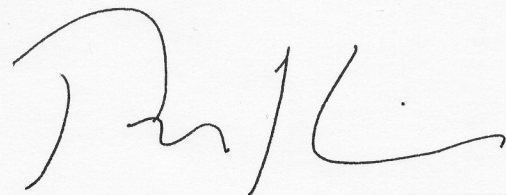
WHEREAS, amphibians are critical components to our ecosystems, especially the Green Tree Frog (*Hyla cinerea*) in the Commonwealth of Virginia, because amphibians provide ecosystem services to nature and to humans including cleaning waterways by eating algae during their tadpole stage, serving as a vital source of food to dragonflies, birds, fish, and reptiles, and consuming large quantities of ticks, mosquitoes and other pest species that serve as disease vectors that can transmit fatal illnesses to humans; and

WHEREAS, approximately 10% of Nobel prizes in physiology and medicine have resulted from investigations that used amphibians, and as amphibian species disappear, so do many promises for improving human medicine; and

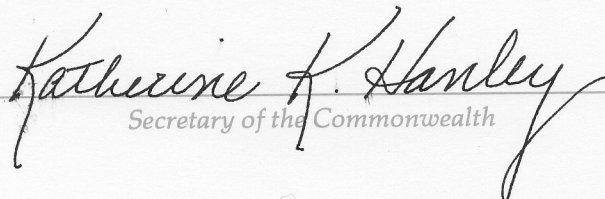
WHEREAS, amphibians face a multitude of threats including pollution, pesticides, habitat destruction, climate change, invasive species, infectious diseases, and over-harvesting for pet, food and bait trades; and

WHEREAS, the children of the Commonwealth have the right to see, hear and catch amphibians in their native habitat, and amphibian conservation efforts will not be successful without an educated and informed public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize April 28, 2009 as **SAVE THE FROGS DAY** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Governor



Secretary of the Commonwealth