



# 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:*

## VICTIM ADVOCATE DAY

**WHEREAS**, victim advocates are individuals committed to assisting victims of crimes and are dedicated professionals constantly seeking to enhance their skills and improve services for crime victims; and

**WHEREAS**, victim advocates represent a diverse spectrum of disciplines including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, volunteers, sexual assault advocates, domestic violence advocates, victim/witness staff, and other victim service providers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Victim Assistance Academy (VVAA) provides a 45-hour comprehensive, academically-based, interdisciplinary and interactive educational program for victim advocates; along with a curriculum that provides a foundation in the principles and policies of victims' rights, as well as skills, knowledge, and resources that will enable graduates to better meet the needs of all victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the VVAA establishes a statewide standard of knowledge and skills needed to provide effective services to crime victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the VVAA promotes collaboration between victim service providers, allied professionals, policymakers, educators and researchers, in addition to, providing opportunities for victim advocates to earn credentials to enhance their professional development and career opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the VVAA was designed by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the University of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, law enforcement, prosecution, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, the Attorney General's Office, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, local victim assistance programs, and crime victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the VVAA inaugural class graduates this day;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize August 1, 2008, as **VICTIM ADVOCATE DAY** 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