

**REFERENCE DESK**

**CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION**

*How to... History  
Class. 1996*

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution  
in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia,  
there is hereby officially recognized:*

**CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, April is the month where the people of the Confederate States of America began and ended a four year struggle for independence, sovereign rights, and local governmental control; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has long recognized her Confederate history, the leaders and people in the Army, Navy and at home who made sacrifices on behalf of the cause of their families, homes and communities, Virginia and country; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all Virginians to reflect upon our Commonwealth's past and to respect the honorable sacrifices of her Confederate leaders, soldiers, and citizens to the cause of liberty and the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, when overwhelmed by insurmountable numbers and resources of their determined opponents, the surviving, imprisoned and injured Confederate soldiers gave their word and allegiance to the United States of America and returned to their homes and families to rebuild their communities in peace; and

WHEREAS, the significance of this era in the history of the United States and Virginia continues to be a source of pride, honor, and respect for millions of Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Allen, Governor, do hereby recognize April 1996, as CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH, in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



*George Allen*  
Governor

*Betsy Davis Beamer*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth