



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:

VICE ADMIRAL MICHELLE J. HOWARD DAY

WHEREAS, Michelle Howard has served the United States Navy with pride and dignity, and it is fitting to pay tribute to the distinguished service of this exceptional officer as well as recognize the first African American woman to become a three-star admiral in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, in May 1987, after serving three sea tours on the USS *Hunley* and USS *Lexington*, Michelle Howard received the Secretary of the Navy/Navy League Winifred Collins award, an honor given to one woman officer a year for outstanding leadership; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Michelle Howard reported to the USS *Mount Hood*, where she served as chief engineer during Operations *Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm* during the Persian Gulf War, and she later assumed the duties of first lieutenant on board the USS *Flint* in July 1992; and

WHEREAS, in January 1996, Michelle Howard became the executive officer of USS *Tortuga* and deployed to the Adriatic Sea in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, a peacekeeping effort in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, after which the *Tortuga* departed the Mediterranean for the West African coast to conduct joint training operations with seven African nations; and

WHEREAS, upon taking command of the USS *Rushmore* on March 12, 1999, Michelle Howard made history as the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, from May 2004–September 2005, Michelle Howard was commander of the Amphibious Squadron Seven, which deployed with Expeditionary Strike Group 5 on operations that included tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia and maritime security operations in the North Arabian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, from April 2009–July 2010, Michelle Howard commanded Expeditionary Strike Group Two, and in 2009 deployed to CENTCOM theater, where she commanded Task Force 151, Multi-national Counter-piracy effort, and Task Force 51, Expeditionary Forces; later, in 2010, she was the Maritime Task Force commander for BALTOPS, under 6th Fleet; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Howard's shore deployments include: J-3, Global Operations, Readiness, Joint Staff from 2001–2003; executive assistant to the Joint Staff director of Operations from February 2003–February 2004; deputy director N3 on the OPNAV staff from December 2005–July 2006; deputy director, Expeditionary Warfare Division, OPNAV staff from July 2006–December 2006; senior military assistant to the secretary of the Navy from January 2007–January 2009; and also, chief of staff to the director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, Joint Staff from August 2010–July 2012; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2012, Michelle Howard was promoted to Vice Admiral and currently serves as deputy commander, US Fleet Forces Command, Commander Task Force Two Zero and Director of Combined Joint Operations From the Sea Centre of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for our Commonwealth to set aside a day in honor of the distinguished career and committed service of the first female, African American to achieve a three-star rank in the U.S. Armed Forces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize September 24, 2012 as **VICE ADMIRAL MICHELLE J. HOWARD DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth