



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

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

## **VIRGINIA SCENIC RIVERS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia was among the first states of this nation to formally recognize the importance of its rivers' natural attributes when it developed the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program April 4, 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, our rivers remain one of our most valuable resources, presenting unparalleled economic, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and ecological opportunities to all United States residents and visitors from around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Potomac River which serves as Virginia's northern boundary, and the New River which runs through six counties in Southwest Virginia were among the first of the nation's rivers recognized as American Heritage Rivers in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program designates and helps protect rivers and streams that possess superior natural and scenic beauty, fish and wildlife, and historic, recreational, geologic, cultural and other assets that are of statewide significance; and

**WHEREAS**, scenic river designations result from initiatives from partnerships of citizens, local organizations, local governments, state agencies, and the General Assembly of Virginia working together to protect our water quality on a watershed basis as the top environmental priority of this administration; and

**WHEREAS**, since the advent of the program, 33 river segments totaling more than 860 river miles have been designated as state scenic rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, six additional river segments representing 110 miles were approved by the 2020 General Assembly, and rivers possessing outstanding scenic qualities continue to be evaluated and added to the system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program, is assisted and advised by the Board of Conservation and Recreation, and receives guidance from locally appointed advisory committees; and

**WHEREAS**, nature positively impacts the ability to mentally process situations, resulting in reduced anxiety and frustration, and often improving our mood and self-esteem; and

**WHEREAS**, the physiological benefits of our green environment are tremendous—outdoor activity may result in faster healing, reduced likelihood for illness and overall good physical health now;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize June 2020 as **VIRGINIA SCENIC RIVERS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth