

MEDIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, the profession of mediation has helped to create a better environment in which people and groups are able to truly listen to each other and develop a deeper understanding of each other; and

WHEREAS, mediation professionals use their skills in a variety of different settings and situations as they help parties reach cooperative agreements and encourage them to utilize mutual problem solving; and

WHEREAS, mediation principles and philosophies have been utilized during collaborative problem solving among individuals, agencies and communities; and

WHEREAS, by utilizing these important principals and philosophies, the result is a sharp focus on conducting business with respect for others as great emphasis is placed on highlighting the positive in every transaction and relationship; and

WHEREAS, the needs of individuals and groups are more completely met when mediation participants become committed to taking ownership in the process of creating agreements while also striving to build consensus;

WHEREAS, in an era where the interdependence of people, organizations, and ideals is a way of life for citizens throughout our Commonwealth, it is critical that we remain focused on achieving positive results and solutions that are generated through productive negotiations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize March 2006 as **MEDIATION MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.