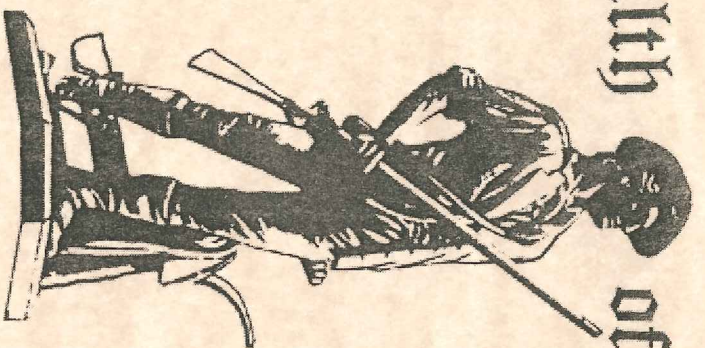


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval M. Patrick

- Whereas** Afterschool programs provide challenging and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills while supporting working families, ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and
- Whereas** More than 28 million children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 14.3 million children have no place to go after school; and
- Whereas** Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and
- Whereas** Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and
- Whereas** It is important to engage families, schools and communities in advancing the welfare of our children and ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval M. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 17th, 2013, to be,

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

