

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



A PROCLAMATION



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

Whereas John Quincy Adams, lawyer, diplomat, statesman, was born on July 11th, 1767 in Braintree, Massachusetts, and was the son of renowned patriots John and Abigail Adams; and

Whereas At the age of twenty-six, John Quincy Adams was appointed Minister to the Netherlands thus beginning his outstanding career as a diplomat. Throughout his life, Adams would serve as Minister to Prussia, Russia and Great Britain. He would also serve as the Chief Negotiator of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, marking the end of the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain; and

Whereas Serving under President Monroe as Secretary of State, Adams was a pivotal force behind early American foreign policy and has been hailed as one of the most successful Secretaries of State in our history. He negotiated with England for the establishment of the current United States-Canadian border, obtained Florida from Spain, and was the leading architect of the Monroe Doctrine; and

Whereas Elected the Sixth President of the United States in 1824, Adams proposed the construction of roads and canals, ultimately obtaining westward expansion of the Cumberland Road into Ohio and the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in 1828; and

Whereas After his presidency, Adams served nine consecutive terms in the House of Representatives and remains the only former president to hold office in the House. Nicknamed "Old Man Eloquent," Adams was a staunch supporter of the Abolitionist Movement within Congress. He fought tirelessly for eight years against an 1836 Congressional "gag rule," which automatically withheld debate on slavery petitions, until its repeal in 1844; and

Whereas In 1841 before the Supreme Court, John Quincy Adams represented African slaves who had mutinied the Spanish ship *Aminstad*, arguing for their freedom. The freed slaves presented Adams with the Mendi Bible as a token of their appreciation and a symbol of their freedom; and

Whereas John Quincy Adams served in several important offices and participated in myriad seminal events than anyone in the history of our nation. Adams' impact has left a lasting imprint on our country and his legacy continues to inspire us today,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim July 11th, 2007, to be

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS 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 eleventh day of July, in the year two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor of the Commonwealth

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS