

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Illiteracy is one of the greatest problems facing the Commonwealth and our nation; and

**Whereas** Sadly, children between the ages 9 and 14 spend a staggering 20 percent of their waking hours watching television, compared to a mere one percent of that time reading a book, while conversely, students who dedicate more time to actively discussing their studies display higher reading proficiencies; and

**Whereas** Reading is Fundamental, a national non-profit founded in 1996, has been fighting illiteracy through its campaign providing children access to books through schools, libraries, community centers and hospitals, motivating children to read; and

**Whereas** A network of volunteers in sixty-four programs in 350 locations throughout Massachusetts serve more than 125,600 children, distributing more than 413,468 books each year, encouraging reading and developing important skills to improve each child's learning ability; and

**Whereas** New Age Role Models and Friends have been instrumental in their dedicated efforts to raise money for Reading is Fundamental in Massachusetts. Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, we dedicate this week to Massachusetts Superior Court Justice Chris Byron; and

**Whereas** Each November, sports figures, community leaders, politicians, parents and celebrities participate in a Reading Aloud Program called *A Salute to Reading is Fundamental Week* in Massachusetts,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 15<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to be

## A SALUTE TO READING IS FUNDAMENTAL WEEK

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 fourteenth day of November, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.



By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts