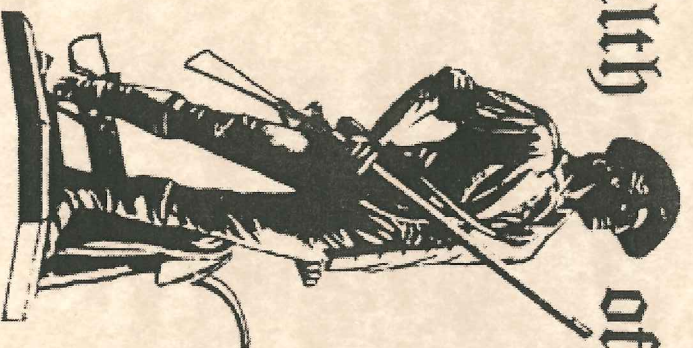


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval D. Patrick

Whereas According to the American Lung Association, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, characterized by an obstruction to airflow interfering with normal breathing, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States; and

Whereas Although some patients have inherited the disease, smoking is the primary risk factor. Other factors include second hand smoke, air pollution and history of childhood respiratory infections; and

Whereas Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease results in gradual, irreversible damage to the lungs. Due to its gradual progression, many patients may not even realize they have the disease in its early stages; and

Whereas Awareness, early detection and treatment are crucial in the prevention or slowing of the spread of lung disease in this country; and

Whereas Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease among all Massachusetts citizens,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval D. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November, 2012, to be

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE MONTH

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 twenty-fifth day of October, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts