

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. 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 L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to be

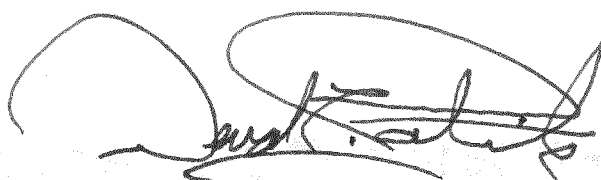
## CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE MONTH

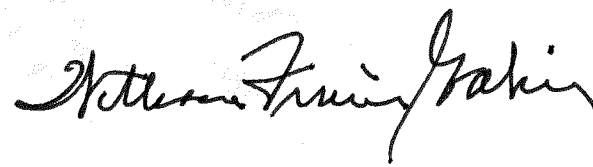
And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this nineteenth day of October, 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