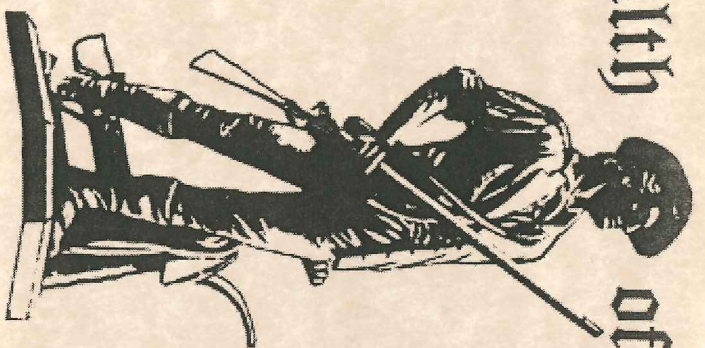


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas A crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease, polio still strikes children mainly under the age of five in the countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East; and

Whereas Historically, polio has been the world's greatest cause of disability and in some cases can cause death; and

Whereas Because there is no cure for polio, the best protection is prevention through vaccination; and

Whereas Since 1985, Rotary International has been dedicated to eradicating polio worldwide. To date, Rotary has exceeded \$1.2 Billion and provided countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries, reducing the number of polio cases worldwide by 99%; and

Whereas The PolioPlus Vaccine Initiative is considered to be the largest public health initiative ever undertaken in the world, and Rotary partners with Government organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Non-Profits, The American Red Cross, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and

Whereas Purple dye painted on a child's pinkie finger signifies the child has received the immunization against polio and ultimately a freshly marked purple pinkie means freedom from the polio disease,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 24th, 2012 to be,

PURPLE PINKIE 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 twenty second 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