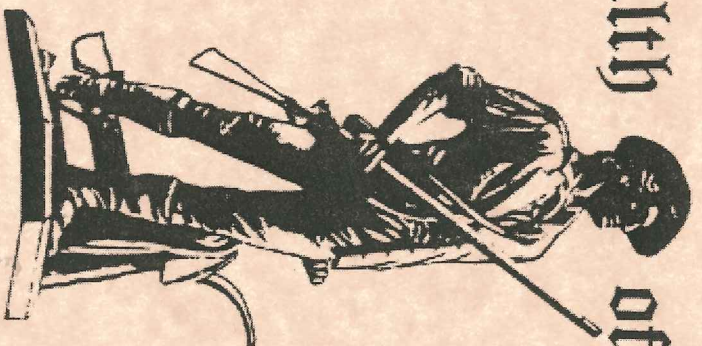


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

- ¶** **hereas** Federal government statistics released in 2012 place the prevalence of autism at greater than 1% of the population; and
- ¶** **hereas** Early diagnosis of autism and early intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes; and
- ¶** **hereas** Proper accommodations can aid autistic persons to achieve their full potential; and
- ¶** **hereas** In 2010, Massachusetts joined the growing list of states that require autism to be defined as a medical condition for insurance purposes; and
- ¶** **hereas** The unemployment rate among autistic adults is extremely high, despite their ability to be valuable employees if given the proper working conditions; and
- ¶** **hereas** It is in our interest to promote an environment of acceptance, respect and inclusion for autistic individuals; and
- ¶** **hereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the barriers faced by autistic people, their families, and their support networks,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2014, to be,

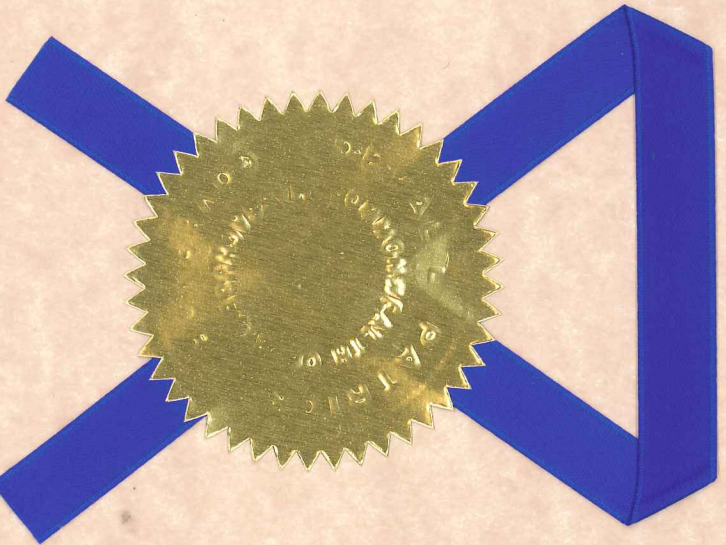
AUTISM AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE MONTH

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 fifth day of March, in the year two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts