

**PROPOSED AND SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN
NOVEMBER, 2024**

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

First Landing Covenant Day

WHEREAS, THE PROVIDENTIAL HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AND OF THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEGAN AT THE FIRST LANDING SITE ON THE SHORES OF CAPE HENRY IN NOW VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA ON APRIL 26, 1607; AND,

WHEREAS, the early explorers proclaimed a purpose of carrying the Gospel to unknown parts of the earth. As early as Brenden of Ireland in 555 A.D., who wrote, *The Land God Promised to His Saints*, he encouraged others to follow in this purpose of vision in seeking the New World; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Johnson, member of The Virginia Company in London, wrote that “God hath reserved in this last age of the World, an infinite number of those lost and scattered sheepe, to be won and recovered by our means.”; and,

WHEREAS, at this time, Richard Hakluyt, was a pastor in the Church of England, and a member of Elizabeth I’s court and council. Hakluyt advised Elizabeth I of the valuable contribution England’s expansion to the New World will be to evangelization and also to provide “...a safe place for persecuted Christians to flee to from around the world because of their faith.”; and,

WHEREAS, as the story of Jamestown unfolds on April 26, it begins with the arrival of three ships on the Atlantic coast of the Virginia Colony. The Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery carried 104 English settlers, and Rev. Robert Hunt. After arriving, the men explored the shoreline and were attacked by Indians. Two were shot and injured by arrows but they all returned to the ship until April 29, when they offered their Dedication Service and planted the Cross on the dune; and,

WHEREAS, “We do hereby Dedicate this land and ourselves, to reach the people within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to raise up Godly generations after us, and with these generations take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this Covenant of Dedication remain to all generations as long as this earth remains and may this land along with England be Evangelists to the whole world. May all who see this Cross remember what we have done here and may those who come here to inhabit join us in this Covenant and in this most notable work that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled.” Reverend Robert Hunt; and,

WHEREAS, his Prayer, in keeping with the Charter’s Mission, was not just for Jamestown, but also spoke for our future Nation as a whole. To ignore this proclaimed National Christian Mission as a fact of history is like trying to sail a ship without a rudder. Though many of the colonists at Jamestown did not live up to this Kingdom standard, our Nation was established in the shadow of the Cross of Christ’s Kingdome and became the most Evangelistic Nation in the World; and,

WHEREAS, it has been established the Christian purpose for planting a permanent settlement in North America. That purpose is stated in the entire text of the third paragraph of the First Virginia Charter 1606; and,

WHEREAS, finding its way into many Protestant sermons, the English people remembered their own history of paganism. They further believed that only through permanent settlements, raising Christian families in the New World, they would ensure Evangelism of the people. They believed that the Bible teaches the only way to reach the lost with permanent cultural changes is to live Christianity before the lost people; and,

WHEREAS, from the shores of Virginia and The First Landing Covenant, came God-given rights and self-government, and a Nation dedicated to God for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the World, and the first glimmers that God created all men equal; and,

WHEREAS, this was the civil Birth Certificate of America that ensured their God-given rights and was a critical clause quoted repeatedly by the Founders of a justification for the Declaration of Independence that took place nearly two centuries later; and,

WHEREAS, Virginia historian, W.H.T. Squires, wrote in his "The Days of Yester-Year in the Colony and Commonwealth" published in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1928, that April 26, 1607, was "...the most significant date in American history, except for perhaps 1492 and 1776..." "It was the genesis of the greatest Nation and the greatest Nations, of modern times and perhaps of all time." and,

WHEREAS, the brief landing on April 26 led to the April 29, 1607 Covenant over the land with God and the planting of the Cross; and,

WHEREAS, the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach displays the Historical Cross along with the Lighthouse that replaced it, and includes the words "Landmarks of Our Nation's Beginning"; and,

WHEREAS, the very founding of our Commonwealth and our Nation was seeded on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, at Cape Henry, on the Day of The Covenant, April 29, 1607; and,

WHEREAS, on this Day, April 29, 2025, all Citizens are urged to remember America's Covenant with the Lord and know that that day and Covenant is essential to define our Spiritual and Structural foundation and to ensure Liberty in these United States of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Glenn Youngkin, do hereby recognize April 29, 2025, and each succeeding year in perpetuity, as **FIRST LANDING COVENANT DAY** in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

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