



*Commonwealth of Virginia*  
*Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam*

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Office of the Governor

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**Governor Northam Proclaims First Week in  
May as Virginia Public Service Week**

*~ Recognizes approximately 701,500 public sector employees across the  
Commonwealth ~*

**RICHMOND**—Governor Ralph Northam today declared May 3–7, 2021 as Virginia Public Service Week to recognize the dedication of federal, state, local, and tribal government employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The annual observance honors approximately 701,500 public sector employees who work on behalf of Virginia residents.

“The past year has been extremely difficult—and our public employees continue to rise to the occasion, going above and beyond to serve their communities and fellow Virginians,” **said Governor Northam**. “From those on the front lines to others who are behind the scenes, this week we have an important opportunity to salute the hard work of thousands of people who help make our Commonwealth the best place to live,

work, visit, and raise a family.”

Governor Northam shared a [new video message](#) celebrating the more than 124,000 state employees in Virginia who are answering the call of public service with commitment, professionalism, and creativity.

In Virginia, an estimated [17 percent](#) of the workforce is employed by the government. During Virginia Public Service Week, public agencies and institutions of higher education recognize their employees through awards and special activities. Virtual programs will be held for state employees again this year, including a [special tour of the Executive Mansion grounds](#), a [cooking lesson from Executive Chef Ed Gross](#), and micro learning sites.

“We depend on our employees and their dedication each and every day,” **said Secretary of Administration Grindly Johnson**. “As in years past, this week provides an opportunity for team-building, connecting, and interacting among employee teams.”

Virginia Public Service Week is also an opportunity for employees to recognize their co-workers, particularly those who volunteer through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) in their communities, which raised nearly \$2 million in just the last year.

“Taking time to simply say thank you, whether from a manager or a co-worker, lets an employee know they are seen and what they did matters to someone else, too,” **said Emily S. Elliott, Director of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management**. “It’s important that we lift each other up during challenging times and remind one another just how important and purpose-driven our service to the Commonwealth really is.”

The full text of Governor Northam’s proclamation can be found [here](#).

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