The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since the early days of our nation, volunteers have helped us through our greatest challenges and triumphs – patriots fighting for our founding ideals, and other community members who come to the aid of neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, while our nation continues on the road to economic recovery, volunteer service plays a vital role in addressing national and local challenges, and is an effective strategy to help unite communities while addressing critical unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, Washington's volunteers demonstrated their commitment to improving their communities and ranked 9th among the 50 states, according to the Volunteering and Civic Life in America report, which shows 1.82 million Washingtonians served more than 228 million total hours valued at $5.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, engaged community members, many recruited by AmeriCorps; VISTA; Senior Corps participants; Citizen Corps; and the Volunteer Centers of Washington, are improving the lives of our state's most vulnerable residents by helping students improve their academic performance, preserving the environment, supporting veterans and military families, and contributing to our public safety by responding to disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is important to honor those who give of themselves for the betterment of their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 21, 2015 as

Washington Volunteer Appreciation Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in recognizing and supporting those who volunteer and serve.

Signed this 8th day of April, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee