



PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2018

WHEREAS, March 2018 is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening, early detection and treatment.

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 10 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, it is important to educate oneself on the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer, and to be aware that risk factors increase after the age of 50; and is an opportunity to offer education on the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer, and the importance of early detection and screening;

WHEREAS, we recognize all those who have been affected by this disease, and we renew our commitment to a lifesaving endeavor: raising awareness of colorectal cancer and the importance of screening.

WHEREAS, since lifestyle factors contribute significantly to the risk of developing colorectal cancer, as well as most cancers, we encourage men & women to educate themselves and explore the ways in which they can decrease their risk for Colorectal Cancer by enjoying a health promoting lifestyle,

WHEREAS, even as we continue the urgent work of improving care, we cannot fill the void left in the lives of those who know the true anguish of colorectal cancer. This month, we honor the loved ones we have lost to this disease and those who battle it today. Let us stand with their families and all who are committed to advancing the fight against cancer through research, advocacy, and quality care. Together, we can build a future free from cancer in all its forms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RALPH DLG. TORRES, and I, VICTOR B. HOCO, by virtue of the authority vested in us by the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth as Governor and Lt. Governor, hereby proclaim March 2018 as

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

We urge all men and women in the CNMI to discuss a preventive and screening program with their health care provider and become aware that they are at risk of getting colorectal cancer. We encourage all citizens, government agencies, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and other groups to join in activities that will increase awareness and prevention of colorectal cancer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands on this 22nd day of February, 2018.

[Signature of Ralph DLG. Torres]
RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

[Signature of Victor B. Hoco]
VICTOR B. HOCO
Lt. Governor