



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, Arbor Day is a national observance which for more than a century has called public attention to the importance of tree planting and tree care as a means of sustaining one of our most precious natural resources; and

**Whereas**, first celebrated in 1872, Arbor Day called upon farmers and homesteaders to replenish the tree population so as to ensure the availability of shade, shelter, food, fuel and the beauty of open areas; and

**Whereas**, in New York State, Arbor Day was first observed in 1888 and today we carry on this tradition by celebrating the inherent value of trees on earth as they add to our quality of life and further an environmental heritage that enriches our daily lives; and

**Whereas**, during this year's observance of National Arbor Day, we are reminded that trees are essential to a healthy and balanced environment – they not only help to provide clean air, but add beauty and aesthetic character to our surroundings; and

**Whereas**, one the most basic living things, trees have long been cherished symbols of endurance, longevity and the propagation of life and, out of respect for our environmental heritage, we plant trees as a symbol of our confidence in and commitment to the future; and

**Whereas**, trees are vital year-round to our economy as the source of countless products and thousands of species also enhance our natural landscape – in urban as well as rural areas – attracting tourists to State and National parks, historic sites and other outdoor resources; and

**Whereas**, Arbor Day 2008 calls for our renewed commitment to New York's environment and reminds each of us that trees are critical to the ecosystem, as communities across the state plant trees to ensure the continuation of a valuable legacy for future generations;

**Now, Therefore**, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2008 as

## ARBOR DAY

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-first  
day of April in the year two thousand eight.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*[Signature]*

Secretary to the Governor