

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**W**hereas The date of February 12, 2009, marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin; and

**W**hereas Charles Darwin is recognized for his landmark scientific achievements, most notably his development of the theory of evolution by natural selection; and

**W**hereas Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, as explained in understandable terms in his landmark book *The Origin of Species* and other subsequent works, is recognized as the foundation of modern biology, a key tool in understanding the natural world and the development of life on earth; and

**W**hereas Darwin's works have enabled humanity to make great advances in science, medicine, philosophy, and other endeavors, challenging conventional views and encouraging critical thinking,

**N**ow, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, to be

## CHARLES DARWIN DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this eleventh day of February, in the year two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-second.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts