WHEREAS, Mainers are forever indebted to our courageous men and women in uniform serving here and abroad who have sacrificed time with their families to protect the security and freedom of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, in Maine there are nearly 6,000 children, and nationwide, there are nearly two million American children with a parent serving in the military, and approximately 900,000 with parents who have been deployed more than once; and

WHEREAS, children and youth of our service members are major contributors to the fabric of strength for their parents every day; and

WHEREAS, children and youth of our service members continue to make contributions to family, schools, communities, the Nation, and our state, despite prolonged and repeated absences of one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, the Month of the Military Child Appreciation provides an opportunity to pay tribute to these children who are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim April, 2012, as

MILITARY CHILD APPRECIATION MONTH

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this Second day of April Two-Thousand Twelve

Paul R. LePage
Governor

Charles E. Summers, Jr.
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY