

# Proclamation

by

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



## *To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky and states across America are welcoming many new neighbors, friends, employees, and citizens from countries and cultures throughout the world, many for whom English is not their native language; and
- WHEREAS, Citizens of Kentucky have growing social, cultural, and economic ties to the global community, offering great opportunities, but presenting new challenges as we seek to communicate with and understand our international partners from different language and culture backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS, Studying other languages has been shown to contribute to increased cognitive skills, better academic performance, and a greater understanding of others, while also providing life-long learning opportunities for people beyond school age; and
- WHEREAS, Proficiency in other languages enhances career opportunities for Kentuckians and provides employers with a workforce equipped with necessary skills for an international marketplace; and
- WHEREAS, World language educators are working cooperatively to promote the benefits of language learning to students, businesses, industries, health and social service leaders, and policy makers throughout the Nation; and
- WHEREAS, Language education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must include a commitment to the study of long sequences of world languages beginning in the early grades, in order to enable students to develop the levels of proficiency needed to effectively communicate with people from other cultures, whether at home or abroad; and
- WHEREAS, The public recognizes the value of delivering better education to our students, of expanding the cultural and literary horizons of adult learners, and of strengthening America's position and security around the world;

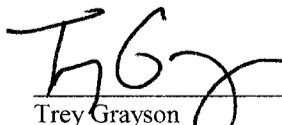
NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim 2005, as

### THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES

in Kentucky, and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by education programs in our Commonwealth, and to support and participate in these programs so as to gain proficiency not only in English, but in other languages as well.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Five and in the 213<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

  
ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

  
Trey Grayson  
Secretary of State

