

## Mary Weaver

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**From:** Edward Zimmer <ed.zimmer@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of Edward Zimmer  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES  
**Subject:** The Branch  
**Attachments:** 2021-11-15final.pdf

Word has it Rob is stranded at the Charlottesville Airport while his plane gets fixed. Once that happens, he will be off to Louisiana for a Southern Group of State Foresters meeting, so I have the privilege of sharing the Branch with you this week.

It is actually somewhat fortuitous that I get his opportunity, because there was something specific I wanted to share with folks, and this is a great venue for it. It isn't often that anyone gets to sing the praises of our State Forester in this space, and his special email to the agency last week was something I thought deserved recognition. As a veteran, myself, I first wanted to thank him for his message to all veterans. But I was especially moved by his framing of the three holidays in November into a much bigger narrative of perhaps the three biggest values we as Americans all recognize – Democracy, Freedom, and Thankfulness, and how they are work together and depend on one another to be fully realized. So thank you, Rob for that moving message.

Thanks to all who joined the Governor and the Secretary to dedicate our newest State Forest. And a hearty welcome to our newest team member, Donald Mullins!

As we all start to get ready for the holidays, remember to be safe in everything you do.

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