

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's foremost citizen George Washington said in his first Annual Address in 1790, "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness;" and

WHEREAS, the residents of this City have acted upon this principle to create and support a system of library and information services through the Alexandria Library, Library Media Centers of the Alexandria City Public Schools, a number of special libraries, as well as libraries in private and parochial schools, and institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, these libraries serve as the gateway to information and technology that support the preservation of our democratic traditions and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, libraries of today function as much more than repositories of knowledge, helping residents keep up with changing technology, offering audiobooks, e-reader materials, free computer classes, hotspots and laptops, community meeting spaces, and access to free online resources; and the Alexandria public library offers English Language Learning classes, citizenship classes, story hours, crafting classes, author talks, and numerous other programs while serving as a Passport Agency for those needing to travel, and partnering with other city departments and agencies to provide programs and access to resources such as COVID test kits, thermal cameras, electricity usage monitors, and Safe Place access; and

WHEREAS, public librarians, library media specialists and school librarians, are dedicated to helping our children and teens find the resources they need to keep learning, thereby safeguarding and preserving intellectual freedoms that ensure an inclusive environment where young minds can create, explore, and connect every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, libraries, library workers, library friends, and library supporters across the United States will celebrate National Library Workers Day sponsored by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and proclaim the week of April 7 through April 13, 2024 as:

"NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK"

This year's theme is **"Ready, Set Library!"** Get ready to explore, become inspired, and connect with your library this National Library Week. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life's journey, your library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs. The Alexandria Library is there for you, to help you cross the finish line in your lifelong learning journey.

FURTHER, THIS CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the dedicated staff of the Alexandria Library and urges residents to reach out via the library's website and social media platforms to thank library workers for the essential services they provide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia to be affixed this 2nd day of April, 2024.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

