

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, George Washington considered Alexandria to be his adopted hometown since it was founded in 1749 and George Washington assisted in surveying Alexandria's original streets at the age of 17; owned property and built a house in the town; conducted business in its establishments; dined at and attended events in Alexandria taverns; served as town trustee; served as Fairfax County Justice of the Peace when Alexandria was included in the County; represented Fairfax County, including Alexandria, in the Virginia House of Burgesses; drilled troops in Market Square; and marched out of Alexandria in the first military campaign of the French and Indian War; and

WHEREAS, George Washington supported Alexandria's earliest institutions, by helping to found the Alexandria Academy which he actively encouraged to educate women and the poor; and by supporting as depositor and shareholder the Alexandria Bank which was the first financial institution authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, George Washington was a lifelong member of the Masonic Order, was honored by being named the charter master of Alexandria's oldest lodge, and inspired the George Washington Masonic National Memorial whereby the Freemasons of the United States hold him in perpetual memory; and

WHEREAS, George Washington is honored as the father of our country because of his exemplary contributions to the American Revolution as Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces, his service as president of the Constitutional Convention, and his unanimous election as first President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee was established by the Alexandria City Council to plan and carry out the annual George Washington Birthday Parade and Celebration of the life of Washington in his adopted hometown; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the 2024 George Washington Birthday Parade will be "George Washington: Alexandria's Original Living Legend" in honor of Alexandria's 275th Anniversary, and the Parade Grand Marshals will be The Living Legends of Alexandria, a non-profit organization that identifies, honors and chronicles the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in a way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee will organize or support other events throughout the month of February, including the Restaurant Cherry Challenge; George Washington's Alexandria walking tours; a wreath-laying ceremony honoring the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolutionary War; the George Washington Birthday Gala and Symposium at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial; the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association's 250th Anniversary Breakfast; and the "Hunt for Washington" in which families and friends of all ages to search for clues about Washington throughout Old Town Alexandria; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of February to be:

"GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION MONTH"

In honor of the 292nd birthday of our country's first President who was born on February 22, 1732. I hereby welcome all visitors to our City and urge everyone to attend and enjoy these unique activities offered during the month of February.

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

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk