

**P R O C L A M A T I O N**  
*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Chris Collins Dance Studio*

***WHEREAS,** Alexandria values the vitality and cultural richness of its small businesses, and sustaining one for fifty years is an extraordinary achievement reflecting exceptional skill, resilience, and community trust; and*

***WHEREAS,** Chris Collins is an extraordinary Alexandrian—a young dancer who discovered his passion early, nurtured it through dedication, and devoted his life to sharing the joy of dance with generations of children and families; and*

***WHEREAS,** Chris founded Chris Collins Dance Studio in 1975, beginning with a small rented classroom, and his parents, Bill and Ruth Collins, were instrumental from the start—Bill signing the first lease and assisting behind the scenes, and Ruth serving as the joyful, welcoming front-desk presence for decades—support without which CCDS could not have succeeded in its early years; and*

***WHEREAS,** in honor of their legacy, Chris presents the annual “Ruth and Bill Collins Award of Excellence” to a dancer who exemplifies outstanding skill, character, leadership, and kindness; and*

***WHEREAS,** Chris married Vickie in April 2001, and she has become an essential part of the CCDS family—making this milestone celebration hers as well; and*

***WHEREAS,** throughout its history, the studio has embraced the philosophy that “we measure success in smiles,” reflecting its belief that joy, confidence, and personal growth are the truest measures of achievement; and*

***WHEREAS,** over five decades, CCDS has welcomed thousands of Alexandria children and families, nurturing creativity, discipline, and confidence, and its students have gone on to become accomplished performers, teachers, professionals, parents, and community leaders, shaping generations of extraordinary Alexandrians; and*

***WHEREAS,** CCDS—it is a “home away from home,” where dancers, teachers, and families form a close-knit “dance family” built on support, mentorship, and lifelong friendships; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Chris Collins Dance Company has earned broad recognition—repeatedly named a “Studio of Excellence” for kindness and sportsmanship and regularly winning regional and national awards for outstanding dancing, choreography, technique, and performance; and*

***WHEREAS,** in June 2026, the studio celebrated its 50th Anniversary Showtime production, marking half a century of artistic achievement and community impact.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS,** Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2025, as:*

**“CHRIS COLLINS DANCE STUDIO 50th ANNIVERSARY DAY”**

*In the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and extend its deepest appreciation to Chris Collins—an extraordinary teacher, mentor, entrepreneur, and community leader—along with his dedicated staff and generations of dancers and families who have made the studio a beloved and enduring part of Alexandria’s cultural fabric.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13th day of December 2025.*

---

**MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS**  
*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

---

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk