

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2020, all of humanity has been under the unrelenting and confining grip of the pandemic globally known as COVID-19; and the pandemic's far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens' lives, wreaking unexpected havoc; and

WHEREAS, in its wake, COVID-19 has wrought effects including, but not limited to: loss of human life, staggering economic depletion and subsequent economic collapse contributing to loss of livelihood, and an underlying deep emotional toll experienced by all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, Virginia, is no exception to the effects of COVID-19, and its citizens have answered the call to assist other residents in need, and this help has been borne of an altruistic approach based on volunteerism; and volunteerism is one of the hallmarks of any great populace, and this is an attribute which is the very definition of the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March 2020, thousands of volunteers have offered assistance to others in their community, and this volunteerism is not quantified: the mere act of volunteering amid this highly-contagious virus has always been a potential health-risk, and the very commitment has required many of the volunteers to potentially compromise their health in the service of others, some of whom they will never meet – nor have many of the recipients been able to offer thanks to the volunteer; and

WHEREAS, some of these selfless acts have been service in the administration of medical assistance, physical labor, transportation, the delivery of meals or groceries, or any modicum of assistance; and it is fitting that the City of Alexandria honor the over 3,400 volunteers listed here who have helped others during this year of unprecedented challenge, and this recognition is not contingent on quantity or frequency of effort – minutes, hours or weeks given to others in service is worthy of honor and notice, and though too numerous in number to mention in spoken word tonight, their names are inscribed herein.

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 honor on December 8, 2020, all the:

“VOLUNTEERS in ALEXANDRIA during THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens. Additionally, a group of note, and deserving additional recognition, is **Volunteer Alexandria**, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1980. Since its establishment, it has a proven record for 4 decades of serving as a link between individual and group volunteers and area nonprofit organizations and City agencies in need of support. Through Volunteer Alexandria's online volunteer portal, thousands of people have been mobilized and matched with a volunteer opportunity to help our community in need. Groups like these have aided in coordination of help in time of need, and its role is worthy of emulation and recognition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of December, 2020.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk