

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, George Washington considered Alexandria to be his adopted hometown since it was founded in 1749; and

WHEREAS, George Washington assisted in surveying Alexandria's original streets at the age of 17; owned property and built a house in the town; attended church at Christ Church and Pohick Church; conducted business in Alexandria establishments; dined at and attended events in Alexandria taverns; served as town trustee; represented Fairfax County, including Alexandria, in the Virginia House of Burgesses; and marched out of Alexandria in the first military campaign of the French and Indian War; and

WHEREAS, George Washington helped mobilize Virginia in resistance to British policies before the Revolutionary War, chairing a committee that drafted the 1774 Fairfax Resolves establishing the fundamental rights of colonists that served as the basis for the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the United States Bill of Rights, which was approved at the Alexandria courthouse on Market Square; and

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

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee was established in 1976 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 2026 George Washington Birthday Parade is "Virginia's Son ~ America's Founding Father" in honor of Washington's leading role in the founding of our country during its 250th Anniversary Year; and the Parade Grand Marshals are Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and Michael J. Elston, Esq., President General, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR); 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 Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association's Annual Breakfast; the George Washington Birthday Banquet at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial; and the "Hunt for Washington" in which families and individuals search for clues about Washington in Old Town Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, these events may be enjoyed by all citizens and visitors to our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and 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 294th birthday of our country's first President who was born on February 22, 1732.

FURTHER, 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 10th day of February 2026.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk