

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the month of May is Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month was established in 1963, with President John F. Kennedy designating May as "Senior Citizens Month," which later became "Older Americans Month"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Older Americans Month is to serve as a time to acknowledge the contributions of older Americans, especially those who have defended the country, and to highlight the importance of healthy aging and community support; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Older Americans Month theme, **Flip the Script on Aging**, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions; and

WHEREAS, the local, national and international contributions of older persons in history deserve recognition and celebration; and

WHEREAS, local leaders, such as former Vice Mayor and Councilmember, Del Pepper, exemplify the contributions of older Alexandrians to the vibrancy of Alexandria, and to the health of all Alexandrians; and

WHEREAS, older adults who are family caregivers, approximately 70% who are women, provide the backbone of the U.S. care system, allowing parents, spouses and other loved ones to live and age independently in their homes, providing about \$600 billion annually in unpaid labor; and

WHEREAS, all people benefit from the profound and undeniable impact of the Older Americans Act, and older persons continue to make profound contributions to the growth and strength of both our City and Commonwealth.

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 May as:

“OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to expand the leadership of older adults and their involvement in public service positions, and do commend all citizens to commemorate this month in gratitude for those older persons who have contributed to the life of the City and the nation where all have, by right, a position of equality, fairness, justice and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 17th day of May 2025.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk