

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, Virginia, enjoys a sister city relationship with the City of Caen in Normandy, France, characterized by educational, commercial, and cultural cooperation; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee, composed of City of Alexandria citizen volunteers, has strengthened the bonds between the two cities through a diverse array of programs and events; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, youth-to-youth exchanges were reactivated by inauguration of a middle school student exchange program between the two cities; Caen city leaders visited Alexandria to participate in events commemorating the bicentennial of Lafayette's visit to Alexandria; and Alexandria city leaders visited Caen for that city's millennium celebrations last year; and

WHEREAS, the assault on the Normandy beaches of Nazi-occupied France near our Sister City Caen on June 6, 1944, by the United States and its allies, popularly known as "D-Day" was one of the most important efforts of World War II; and the success of the landings led to the defeat of Nazi Germany, the liberation of Western Europe, and the advancement of freedom, democracy, and shared prosperity between the United States and Western Europe in the post-war world; and

WHEREAS, sons and daughters of the City of Alexandria participated in that great operation and in the larger war effort of which it was a part, in some cases making the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, this year's commemoration of D-Day recognizes the 82nd anniversary of this historic operation; and

WHEREAS, this year, the City of Alexandria's 16th annual commemoration remembers this critical moment in world history, educates our community, honors our veterans, strengthens sister city camaraderie, and recognizes this time when the endeavors of our two nations overlapped and changed the course of history; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee has organized several programs to recognize this 82nd anniversary of D-Day, including a flagship event on Sunday, May 31, 2026, in Alexandria's John Carlyle Square, and a June 4th lecture at The Lyceum by Rear Admiral Samuel Cox, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, on "Operations Tiger and Neptune - D-Day at Sea."

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 June as the:

"82nd Anniversary of D-DAY Commemoration Month"

in the City of Alexandria and call upon the citizens of Alexandria to participate in public commemorations of the heroic events of D-Day and reflect upon Alexandria's postwar relationship with our Sister City Caen.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 26th day of May 2026.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk