

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; conducted business in its establishments; dined at and attended events in Alexandria taverns; served as town trustee; served as Fairfax County Justice of the Peace when Alexandria was included in the County; represented Fairfax County, including Alexandria, in the Virginia House of Burgesses; drilled troops in Market Square; and marched out of Alexandria in the first military campaign of the French and Indian War; and

WHEREAS, George Washington supported Alexandria's earliest institutions, by helping to found the Alexandria Academy which he actively encouraged to educate women and the poor; and by supporting as depositor and shareholder the Alexandria Bank which was the first financial institution authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, George Washington attended and supported local churches, owning pews and attending services at Christ Church and Pohick Church, and donating generously to what is now the Basilica of Saint Mary, which was the first Catholic parish in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, George Washington was a lifelong member of the Masonic Order, was honored by being named the charter master of Alexandria's oldest lodge, and inspired the George Washington Masonic National Memorial whereby the Freemasons of the United States hold him in perpetual memory; and

WHEREAS, George Washington helped mobilize Alexandria 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 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 2025 George Washington Birthday Parade will be "George Washington: America's Commander-in-Chief" in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War and the United States Army, and the Parade Grand Marshal will be Lieutenant General Heidi J. Hoyle, Deputy Chief of Staff of the United States Army; 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 Gala and Rededication of the Statue of George Washington at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Temple, and the "Hunt for Washington" in which families and friends of all ages to search for clues about Washington throughout 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, 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 293rd 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 11th day of February 2025.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk