

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, in 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate emergency medical services professionals and the important work they do in our nation's communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria community was already a pioneering EMS center since 1961, when Alexandria Hospital initiated full-time emergency medical care and spread their "Alexandria Plan" across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, our community achieved another milestone in 1976, when the Alexandria Fire Department hired its first group of medics to perform advanced life support services, now marking its 50th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, access to emergency medical care is a vital public service that dramatically improves the survival and recovery of people in the community who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services providers continually engage in specialized training and maintain readiness to deliver lifesaving care to people in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Alexandria Fire Department's pioneering work delivering full-time advanced life support services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of May 17 - 23, 2026, as:

***"Emergency Medical Services Week"***

*In the City of Alexandria and encourage the community to recognize the value and accomplishments of our emergency medical services providers as the theme of this 52nd anniversary of EMS Week is, "EMS Week: Improving Outcomes, Together."*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia to be affixed this 16th day of May 2026.

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

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC, City Clerk