

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, George Washington, the father of our country, at age eleven chose to live at Mt. Vernon with stepbrother Lawrence, assisted in surveying our City's streets, bought property, built a house, conducted business and drilled his troops here, and bade a final farewell to them from the steps of Wise's Tavern; and for many years enjoyed dining, dancing, playing cards, catching up on local news and attending Birth-night Balls held in his honor at Gadsby's Tavern; and

WHEREAS, George Washington was an visionary citizen who made numerous contributions to our City such as helping to fund and endow the Alexandria Academy, including funding scholarships for poor boys and girls at a time when girls generally were thought to need little academic education; and

WHEREAS, George Washington donated a fire engine to our City to enhance public safety, contributed generously to several local churches, and regularly attended Christ Church where he bought a pew; and

WHEREAS, George Washington is honored as the father of our country because of his exemplary contributions to the American Revolution as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, service as president of the Constitutional Convention and unanimously elected first President of the United States of America, and whom his Alexandria close friend Gen. "Light-Horse" Harry Lee called "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen"; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee was established by City Council to plan and carry out the City's annual George Washington Birthday Celebration to show our affection, respect and gratitude to this hero, and the Committee supports a variety of events throughout the month of February celebrating the life of George Washington; and

WHEREAS, these events include a Birth-night Ball, a 10K foot race, a historical re-enactment, walking tours, a ceremony honoring the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolutionary War, a special armed forces ceremony honoring our veterans and active duty military and the nation's largest George Washington Birthday Parade; and

WHEREAS, these events can be enjoyed by all citizens and visitors to our City; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee is to be commended for its work on behalf of the citizens of Alexandria.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, 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 281st birthday of our country's first President on February 22nd.

FURTHER, I hereby welcome all visitors to our City and urge everyone to attend and enjoy the 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 3rd day of February, 2013.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk