

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, President John F. Kennedy called on Congress and delivered a special message on the state of mental health in America, focusing on accurate and prompt diagnoses, adequate treatment and education and recovery; and

WHEREAS, President Kennedy's message led to significant changes in the way Americans treated those with developmental and intellectual disabilities and mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, President Kennedy on October 24 signed the Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendment to the Social Security Act and on October 31 the Community Mental Health Act, the last piece of legislation he was ever to sign; and

WHEREAS, those laws forever changed the lives of Americans with mental illness and developmental disabilities leading to the closure of warehousing institutions across the country; and

WHEREAS, those laws led to community mental health centers, job training, the right of every child to an appropriate public education, housing in the community, job opportunities; and

WHEREAS; those laws led to the state of Virginia creating Community Service Boards to oversee the needs of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Alexandria came together to plan a week to celebrate Mental Health Awareness under the auspices of the Beatley Central Library, the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, the Department of Community and Human Services and the Anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign of the Partnership for a Healthier 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 week of October 6, 2013 to be:

“MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

in the City of Alexandria and encourage our citizens to take part in the events at the Beatley Library October 6-10.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24th day of September, 2013.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk