

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, George Washington, starting as a young man, chose to live at Mount Vernon with his stepbrother Lawrence and called Alexandria his hometown, where he assisted in surveying our streets, bought property, built a house, conducted business, caught up on local news, drilled his troops in Market Square and bade a final farewell to them from the steps of Wise's Tavern; and for many years enjoyed shopping, dining, dancing, playing cards, and celebrating important events in Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, George Washington was a visionary citizen who made numerous contributions to our city such as helping to found and endow the Alexandria Academy, including funding scholarships for girls at a time when few provided academic opportunities for them; and

**WHEREAS**, George Washington donated generously to enhance public safety and to support several local churches, including St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (now the Basilica of Saint Mary), and regularly attended Christ Church where he owned a pew; 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 is honored as the father of our country because of his exemplary contributions to the American Revolution as Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces, his service as president of the Constitutional Convention and his unanimous election as first President of the United States of America; and whom his close Alexandria 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 annual George Washington Birthday Celebration on behalf of, and officially sponsored by, the City of Alexandria to show our affection, respect, and gratitude to this hero; and

**WHEREAS**, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee supports a variety of events throughout the month of February celebrating the life of George Washington. This year's events include a multitude of events about Balls in early America at Gadsby's Tavern Museum; the Cherry Challenge Contest supported by Alexandria's local restaurants; George Washington's Alexandria walking tours of Old Town outdoor sites; a ceremony honoring the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolutionary War; the annual George Washington Birthday Parade; the re-dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial's Cornerstone; the annual Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast; the annual George Washington Birthday Gala and Symposium at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial; and the "Hunt for Washington" scavenger hunt for families and friends of all ages to find clues throughout the City of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, this year the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee honors George D. Seghers, Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, as the Grand Marshal in honor of the Memorial's 100th anniversary of the Laying of their Cornerstone and its historic significance nationally and in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, these events may be enjoyed by all citizens and visitors to our City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, 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 291<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

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**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC      City Clerk