

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *Prince Hall Free Masonry began in Alexandria on February 5, 1845 in what was then known as Alexandria, D.C. It was created by three seaman who had been initiated Masons at the St. George Lodge #32 Liverpool, England; and*

WHEREAS, *their names are William Dudley, Sandy Bryant and Benjamin Crier; and*

WHEREAS, *they settled in Alexandria in 1838 and became members of Social Lodge #7 of Washington, D.C. The lodge began to function on August 26, 1845 with George Sims as Worshipful Master Charter Members included Ephraim Bancroft, Dennis Bourbon, Pete Costin, Edward Evans, James Evans, Richard Garrett, Joseph L. Gibson, Alfred Hamilton, Reverend Robert H. Robinson (P.G.M.), and George Sims; and*

WHEREAS, *the only Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in Virginia for almost 20 years, Universal Lodge held regular meetings on the second floor of a house on South Royal Street (424 S. Royal Street) in a section of Alexandria known as Hayti, and despite the intimidation perpetuated against these Masonic Brothers, they continued to hold their meetings; and*

WHEREAS, *Universal Lodge#1 continues today and is celebrating its 170th anniversary February 5, 2015; and*

WHEREAS, *Universal Lodge#1 has been an integral part of the Alexandria Community addressing issues like slavery, schools and education, church buildings, and the general welfare of the African American community.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby congratulate:

“UNIVERSAL LODGE#1”

on the celebration of its 170th Anniversary and its continued service to the City of Alexandria.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10th day of February, 2015.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk