

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bernard “Ben” Brenman, USA, Ret. Col. envisioned a community archaeology program for Alexandria in which sites across the entire city representing all peoples and times would be valued by everyone living in and visiting Alexandria today; and

WHEREAS, Ben believed that a community working together in a partnership of residents, developers, archaeologists, volunteers and students could successfully “save, study, and share” Alexandria’s special heritage; and

WHEREAS, Ben was a founder and chairman for 21 years of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, the first such local government commission in America; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission has established the Bernard “Ben” Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award to recognize partners who have given significant contributions toward Alexandria’s community archaeology; and

WHEREAS, the Brenman Award acknowledges high quality work, innovation, commitment or extraordinary efforts in preservation, research, protection, enhancement, creation of historic parks and open spaces, documentation, education, public appreciation and advocacy for archaeology; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Brenman Award for **Founding of Archaeology in Alexandria** is presented to Councilwoman Redella S. “Del” Pepper, previous Vice Mayor, for her long-time support of archaeology in Alexandria; for being part of the Committee of 100 that was formed in the 1970s to fund and ensure the continuation of the rescue work on the King Street Urban Renewal Blocks and led to the establishment of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission; for her distinctive role in continuous support and interest in the archaeological excavations over the last 40 plus years; for her yearly support of volunteers by attending nearly all the annual Archaeology Volunteer Recognition Parties, where she tells stories of Ben Brenman, talks about the importance of archaeology to Alexandria, and profoundly thanks the volunteers for their thousands of hours of hard work; for her great support of the Alexandria Heritage Trail and the guidebook; and for helping to make the City's archaeology program a leader in the nation and an example for other local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Researcher** is presented to Paula Tarnapol Whitacre, volunteer researcher, for her coordination and supervision of many other volunteers in transcribing the Julia Wilbur diaries, approximately 650 transcribed pages corresponding to the original handwritten 1,960 pages; for her amazing and tireless effort in bringing this project to fruition by drawing the interest of so many people in Alexandria; for bringing to the public’s awareness, Julia Wilbur, abolitionist and aid worker who came to Alexandria during the Civil War, whose diaries are an in depth Civil War era primary resource, which give first-hand impressions of the treatment, struggles, and strength of the thousands of African American refugees who fled into Alexandria in search of freedom and opportunity; for making available transcriptions of this invaluable resource; and sharing the Julia Wilbur diaries with researchers, the public, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Volunteer Archaeologist** is presented to Andrew Flora, volunteer archaeologist, professional illustrator, and outstanding supporter, for the excellence and consistency of his volunteer service since 1977; for bringing his professional archaeological training and skills in the field to contribute greatly to the understanding of numerous sites, including the Moore McLean Sugar House and the Shuter’s Hill Plantation; for providing professional-quality illustrations and detailed drawings of many site maps and important artifacts that have appeared in museum displays and numerous publications; for his anticipation of the needs of the office and field; for his generosity and thoughtfulness expressed in numerous donations, including everything from books, to pumps, to sand bags; and for going beyond traditional volunteer tasks by doing extra jobs whenever and wherever he detects a need, from sharpening trowels to water screening for small-scale organic materials.

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

**“COUNCILWOMAN REDELLA S. “DEL” PEPPER,
PAULA TARNAPOL WHITACRE, & ANDREW FLORA”**

For their outstanding work here in 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 13th day of October, 2015.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk