

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, George Washington, the father of our country, at age eleven chose to live at Mt. Vernon with his stepbrother Lawrence; assisted in surveying our city's 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 here, including Birthnight banquets and balls held in his honor at Gadsby's and Wise's Taverns; 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 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, including St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 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 our armed forces, service as president of the Constitutional Convention and 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 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

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Committee supports a variety of events throughout the month of February celebrating the life of George Washington; and

WHEREAS, these events include a Birthnight Banquet and Ball, a 10K foot race, the Cherry Challenge Contest at local restaurants, development of information about Washington's life and achievements for the media, a historical battle re-enactment, walking tours of Old Towne sites associated with Washington, a ceremony honoring the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolutionary War, and the nation's largest George Washington Birthday Parade; and

WHEREAS, these events may 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 our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, 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 284th birthday of our country's first President on February 22, 1732.

FURTHER, I hereby welcome all visitors to our City and urge everyone to attend and enjoy these 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 9th day of February, 2016.

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk