

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, the 2016 Brenman Awards are inspired by decades of work and collaboration that have gone into planning for the redevelopment and revitalization of the City’s waterfront, now coming to fruition in the waterfront implementation plan that will eventually unify the river’s edge into one continuous corridor enriched by art and historical interpretation, much of which draws from archaeological discoveries; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Brenman Awards highlight the Hotel Indigo development project at 220 S. Union Street as the first major archaeological investigation undertaken as part of the current waterfront redevelopment initiative in compliance with the Archaeological Protection Code, resulting in the discovery of the location of the 1749 shoreline of Alexandria, trash-filled privies that provide evidence of the daily life of the City’s past residents, a bulkhead built for filling the shallow cove on which Alexandria was founded, the stone and wood foundation of an 18th-century warehouse constructed as one of the first public works projects in the City, AND the timbers of a portion of the hull of an 18th-century ship about to undergo conservation for future exhibition and interpretation on the waterfront, thereby elucidating significant aspects of Alexandria’s heritage and specifically our seaport history; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Professional Archaeologist** is presented to John Mullen, Principal Archaeologist and Assistant Manager at Thunderbird Archaeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., for his high standards of archaeological investigation and historical study at the Hotel Indigo site, for providing new insights into the founding and development of Alexandria’s 18th-century waterfront, and for his exceptional commitment to communicating these incredible discoveries to multiple audiences; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Maritime Archaeologist** is presented to Dr. George Schwarz of the Naval History and Heritage Command’s Underwater Archaeology Branch for volunteering to provide expertise and guidance in the documentation, careful excavation, and preliminary stabilization of the oldest ship discovered to date in Alexandria, and for sharing his knowledge about maritime history and the construction and use of the vessel, thereby helping to make possible the eventual exhibition of this rare artifact for future generations to study and appreciate; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Developer** is presented to Michael Wilson, Senior Vice President for Construction, Carr City Centers, for the company’s commitment to the highest quality archaeological preservation at the Hotel Indigo development project, and for supporting and funding the documentation and recovery of significant artifacts, features, and information that will enrich the lives of residents and visitors by promoting an understanding of the past.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby congratulate:

“MICHAEL WILSON, DR. GEORGE SCHWARZ AND JOHN MULLEN”

For their outstanding work 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 5th day of October, 2016.

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk