

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is dedicated to the preservation and protection of its historic assets, an important one of which is the city-owned Gadsby's Tavern; and

WHEREAS, Gadsby's Tavern was known in the 18th Century as THE 5-star hotel in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the first five Presidents of the United States of America enjoyed the comforts and offerings of Gadsby's Tavern in the company of a multitude of their contemporaries, and later visitors have included President Truman, First Ladies Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, and Rosalynn Carter, and Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington was feted with celebration of his last two birthdays at Birthnight Balls at Gadsby's Tavern where he partied like it was 1999 – really 1799 saying in his diary, “Went up to Alexandria to the celebration of my birth day. Many manoeuvres were performed by the Uniform Corps and an elegant Ball & Supper at Night;” and

WHEREAS, Birthnight Balls celebrating the birth of President George Washington continue to be held annually at Gadsby's Tavern; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson celebrated his inauguration as president in the historic ballroom in 1801 and was regaled with 16 toasts throughout the night; and

WHEREAS, the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, chartered over twenty years ago to assist the City of Alexandria in preservation and protection of Gadsby's Tavern has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Society continues Mr. Gadsby's lavish entertaining with a signature Best Bib and Tucker Ball each year, and the Society's signature Best Bib and Tucker Ball for 2017 will feature a Cherry Blossom theme; and

WHEREAS, the perhaps apocryphal story illustrating the honesty of George Washington featured a cherry tree; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's Capital and surrounding region is famous for annual celebrations of the breathtaking cherry blossoms that greet us every spring.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society's 2017 Best Bib and Tucker Ball on March 11, 2017 as the:

"CHERRY BLOSSOM BALL"

For the City of Alexandria and call upon our citizens to support the preservation efforts of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society by enjoying this enchanting evening indulging in fine food, libations, live music and dancing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of February, 2017.

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk