

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, George Washington, the father of our country, at age sixteen copied sections from Francis Hawkin's book, *Youth's Behavior, or, Decencie in Conversation Among Men*. . . forming 110 Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation that Washington regarded as important maxims that guided him throughout his life and which forms the basis for the theme of "CIVILITY" for the 2019 George Washington Birthday Celebration; and

WHEREAS, George Washington, starting as a young man, chose to live at Mt. Vernon with his stepbrother Lawrence; and called Alexandria his hometown where he assisted in surveying our 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 in Alexandria; 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 generously to enhance public safety, and to support several local churches, including St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (now the Basilica of Saint Mary), and regularly attended Christ Church where he owned 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, his service as president of the Constitutional Convention and his 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 Celebration Committee was established by City Council to plan and carry out the annual George Washington Birthday Celebration on behalf of, and officially sponsored by, the City of Alexandria to show our affection, respect and gratitude to this hero; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee supports a variety of events throughout the month of February celebrating the life of George Washington. These events include a Birthnight Banquet and Ball, a Symposium hosted by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the Cherry Challenge Contest at local restaurants, development of information about Washington's life and achievements for the media, a historical battle re-enactment at Fort Ward Park, "Walking with Washington" tours of Old Town 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, this year the George Washington Birthday Parade will honor the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion and will feature Dan Dellinger, a Past National Commander of The American Legion, as Parade Grand Marshal; and

WHEREAS, these events may be enjoyed by all citizens and visitors to our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, 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 287th birthday of our country's first President who was born on February 22, 1732.

FURTHER, I hereby welcome all visitors to our City and urge everyone to attend and enjoy these unique 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 12th day of February, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk