

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, a traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a bump, blow, jolt, or other head injury that disrupts the brain's normal function, often resulting in a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 2.8 million Americans, including 475,000 children, sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, including 795,000 who suffer a stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, as many as 8.5 million children and adults nationwide live with long-term disabilities due to traumatic brain injury and stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, an estimated 389,621 Virginians live with disabilities caused by TBI and stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, of the approximately 28,000 individuals in Virginia each year who sustain brain injuries including concussions, more than 7,000 are hospitalized, largely due to falls, motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sporting-related injuries, or occupational injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, 383,947 U.S. military service members worldwide have been diagnosed with TBI in deployed and non-deployed settings, and as a typical injury of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, TBI presents ongoing challenges for Virginia veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, early, equal, and adequate access to care greatly increases the overall quality of life of Virginians with TBI, enabling them to return to home, school, work, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) leads the nation in observing March as Brain Injury Awareness Month with the theme, "Change Your Mind About Brain Injury," which focuses on changing misconceptions about the injury; educating the public on the incidence and prevalence of brain injury; and advocating for the needs of individuals who are injured and their family members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services is the lead agency for brain injury services in the Commonwealth, and works in partnership with state and local agencies, as well as a network of brain injury services programs including the statewide educational / advocacy organization, the Brain Injury Association of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities is committed to raising awareness in Alexandria of the importance of recognizing a brain injury, treating it appropriately and supporting the injured.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 13, 2019, as:

**"BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS DAY"**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

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

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk