

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, “Constitution Week” is traditionally observed in the United States from September 17 through September 23 to commemorate the significance of the United States Constitution in preserving the individual freedoms, liberties, and common welfare of every person in this country; and

WHEREAS, in addition to commemorating the signing of the Constitution, the United States Congress designated September 17 as “Citizenship Day;” and

WHEREAS, on this day, the City of Alexandria, in conjunction with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, has proudly sponsored a naturalization ceremony in recognition of Citizenship Day since 2003; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a physical ceremony will not be held in 2020, in the interest of protecting the public during this national emergency; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of such ceremony, we take the time to affirm, reflect and remember that, while all persons present in the United States are entitled to fundamental constitutional rights and basic human dignity, citizens of the United States enjoy additional rights and privileges and full participation in civic life; and

WHEREAS, we applaud and welcome new citizens across this nation who are taking the Oath of Allegiance, and celebrate them as part of our whole America. As new citizens of the United States, their presence is an example of rich diversity that they bring to our community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our great nation; and

WHEREAS, we also take this time to recognize and cherish our nation, its Constitution, and our basic freedoms, bought with blood, sweat, toil and protest, and rededicate ourselves to knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government; good moral character; and adherence to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as Americans, we avow the principles stated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, steadfast in the belief that all people are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among those being life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We also affirm a core value of our city: that we are an accepting and embracing community where we treat each other with human dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, we are, as Americans, united by a hard-won legacy of equality, liberty, democracy and freedom. We are one, and in our unity, there is strength.

WHEREAS, as United States citizens, we are asked to participate in the political process by registering to vote in elections, serving on juries when called, and participating in the activities of local government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2020, as:

"ALEXANDRIA'S CITIZENSHIP DAY"

And urge all citizens to reflect on the many benefits of our United States Constitution and on the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 17th day of September, 2020.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk