

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

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, 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, a 2021 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Preservation Advocate** is presented to Griffin Burchard for his contribution to the stewardship of Douglass Cemetery, one of Alexandria’s historic Black cemeteries; for planning and implementing his 2019 Eagle Scout project at Douglass Cemetery including the creation of a new interpretive historical sign at the site; for raising awareness about these sacred and fragile sites and the recognition that preserving Black cemeteries means preserving the history of Black Alexandrians; and for immeasurably enhancing the quality of life in Alexandria by caring for the final resting place of those buried here; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 Brenman Award for **Outstanding Community History** is presented to the African American Heritage Trail Committee founding and current members (Councilman John Chapman, Susan Cohen, Gwen Day-Fuller, Elizabeth “Indy” McCall, Maddy McCoy, Krystyn Moon, McArthur Myers, and Ted Pulliam) in recognition of their dedication to researching and highlighting the contributions of African Americans to Alexandria’s historic waterfront and throughout the city; for their leadership in the community history movement that engages residents and visitors with new ways of telling Alexandria’s unique history; and for their commitment to instilling a sense of collective ownership of the past for all Alexandrians; and

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

“GRIFFIN BURCHARD & THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL COMMITTEE”

For their 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 26th day of October, 2021.

MAYOR JUSTIN WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk