



PROCLAMATION

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NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence everyday leading to nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, local public officials and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just one week later, would now be celebrating her 23rd birthday, and in Hadiya's honor and in honor of the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations designated the first Friday in June as Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; choosing this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and because orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life, and by wearing orange on June 5, 2020, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2020, to be

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in Arlington and I encourage all residents to support their community's efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Libby Garvey
Chair