



## PROCLAMATION

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### HONORING VERA PUNKE

**WHEREAS**, Vera Punke born on August 29, 1915 in Providence, Rhode Island to Rosina and Amadeo Motta who immigrated to the United States from Italy shortly after the turn of the last century and much like the immigrants of today, her family faced daunting obstacles, numerous personal trials and challenges yet succeeded beyond their wildest dreams; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of 21 Vera married Al DiMaglio and over the years they were blessed with two children Richard and Elda (known as Cookie), and while Vera loved motherhood she also held many jobs, paid and unpaid, as business owner/operator, community activist, Girl Scout Den Leader and Camp Director, and as a correspondent of a local newspaper; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1959 Vera was widowed, but refused to allow the grief to bring her down, as her motto was “If you walk around with a long face, you’ll make everyone unhappy. I always think that you get old by not doing anything. You’ll never get old if you stay busy.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Vera was married and widowed three more times; they were happy marriages to successful businessmen in real estate, education, and corporate America; and

**WHEREAS**, since moving to Arlington, Vera has continued to exemplify her love of life by staying busy and continuing to keep up with her lifelong love of bridge – even offering lessons to The Jefferson residents; and

**WHEREAS**, with the celebration of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday, Vera is grateful to be surrounded by her loving family – her daughter Cookie, grandsons Steven and Robert, daughters in Law Kristen and Gia and great grandsons Evan III, Owen Daniel, Eli Jesse and Joseph Booker, who all are her pride and joy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby offer best wishes to

### VERA PUNKE

on the occasion of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. May it be a celebration to remember!

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Libby Garvey  
Chair