



PROCLAMATION

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, American women of all backgrounds have made equal contributions to those of men in building our nation; leading heroically as suffragists, civil rights leaders, activists, political candidates and voters, and working towards a fairer and more just society for all; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 we commemorate the centennial of women securing the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th amendment, after almost 100 years of hard-fought advocacy, including the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention and the 1913 Women's Suffrage March in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Virginia achieved a historic milestone in our nation's quest to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by becoming the 38th state to ratify the ERA; and

WHEREAS, despite these successes and contributions, women still encounter the glass ceiling and still strive for equal pay for equal work; female political candidates are held to a different standard of electability and women of color are disproportionately denied advancement opportunities and equity in the workplace; and the accomplishments of American women have been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the arts, in sports, in entertainment, in literature, and in the study of American history; and

WHEREAS, Arlington is particularly proud of the many accomplishments and leadership roles local women of every race, class and ethnic background have assumed, making Arlington County an inclusive world-class community; and contributing to the growth and strength of our County, our nation and the global community; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 National Women's History Month theme, "Valiant Women of the Vote," honors women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women including women of color who have played critical roles by continuing the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all; and each year since 1987, March has been designated Women's History Month in our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **March 2020** as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in Arlington County and encourage all residents to join in honoring our history and celebrating the contributions of women.

Libby Garvey
Chair