

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

# Proclamation

## CONSTITUTION WEEK

**WHEREAS**, September 17, 2023, marks the 236<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America at the Constitutional Convention providing a historic opportunity for all Americans to remember the achievements of our Founding Fathers; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 26, 1788, Virginia ratified the Constitution being one of the original 11 members of the United States constitutional government; and

**WHEREAS**, June 25, 1788, marks the anniversary of Virginia's statehood; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this remarkable document and the milestone anniversary of its creation, and the additions to it in the form of 27 amendments, the first 10 known as the Bill of Rights which protected from its outset freedom of speech, freedom of religion, jury trials, and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures; and additionally the 13<sup>th</sup> which abolished slavery, the 14<sup>th</sup> which provided civil rights to all persons born or naturalized in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote was accorded to Black citizens with the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment, and to women with the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, and to citizens 18 years or older with the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the signing of the Constitution and of Americans who strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, Public Law #915 signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 2, 1956, designated the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week;"

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23, 2023, as

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in Arlington County and encourage our residents to reaffirm the ideals embodied in the United States Constitution.



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Christian Dorsey  
Chair