

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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HONORING VERA PUNKE

WHEREAS, Vera Punke was 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 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 a 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 demonstrate 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby offer best wishes and continued health to

VERA PUNKE

on the occasion of her 108th birthday. May this celebration surrounded by family and friends be a joy for all!



Christian Dorsey
Chair