

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Women's History Month highlights the achievements and struggles of women who have, and continue to help, build and shape this country, and is observed every March since 1987, with the passage of Public Law 100-9; and

WHEREAS, the National Women's History Alliance's theme for Women's History Month 2023 is "*Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*," a theme that recognizes women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX which guaranteed women athletes equal opportunity in sports in educational institutions, and University of Pennsylvania graduate Lia Thomas became the first transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division 1 title and also the first transgender woman to be nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, while the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary spotlight on the gendered dimensions of inequality in issues such as caregiving and economic vulnerability, we are left with the ongoing causes and consequences of gender injustice; and

WHEREAS, women worldwide endure gender inequality which is further exacerbated when they also identify as members of other marginalized communities, based on their skin color, ethnicity, age, ability, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, both female and male cells are needed to give life to a child, women in the U.S. exclusively bear the physical responsibility for childbearing and disproportionately bear the custodial responsibility for child rearing yet no longer have a guaranteed right to make their own reproductive decisions; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge, even as we strive for a bright future for young women, these youth are, in the words of the Centers for Disease Control, "engulfed in a growing wave of violence and trauma" with one in three high school girls having seriously considered suicide and 15% of teen girls reporting they were forced to have sex; and

WHEREAS, while our County, our Commonwealth and our nation are works in progress, there is promise and potential in each one of us to lift every voice, to heal our trauma, and to support spaces where everyone can thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **March 2023** as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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



Christian Dorsey
Chair