

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, equality of opportunity was a founding promise of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, every generation of our people has struggled to realize what was proclaimed by the founders to be a self-evident truth; and

**WHEREAS**, our City, not unlike other cities across the country, once betrayed the ideals of the nation by enacting laws that placed one race above another, and relegated the children of one race to inferior schools; and

**WHEREAS**, after the United States Supreme Court ordered an end to racial segregation in 1954, most school districts in Virginia refused to comply, and some closed down their public schools in defiance; and

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria began integration of its schools in 1959; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 1971, courageous leaders of the time passed the 6-2-2-2 plan for reorganization of secondary schools, with racial balance, placing students from schools that had been for whites only and students from schools that had been exclusively for blacks together at T.C. Williams for the first time as classmates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Titans of 1971 proved that students and coaches of different races could achieve together what would have been impossible to achieve apart; and

**WHEREAS**, the T.C. Williams football team won thirteen straight games, defeating schools still segregated on the way to the State Championship, outscoring opponents by a combined 357 to 45, and posting nine shutouts in the process;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby:

**COMMEMORATE** the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of integration of Alexandria City Public Schools at the secondary school level and of the Titans' State Football Championship game of December 4, 1971; and

**HONOR** City and School leaders of 1971 and all the Titans of 1971, whose courage and achievements will be celebrated at a reception on December 3, 2001, at 7 p.m. in the High School Main Lobby, and

**REAFFIRM** the commitment of the City of Alexandria to the ideal of equality of education.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2001.

**KERRY J. DONLEY** **MAYOR**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk