

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the culture and traditions of the Armenian people were among the earliest to arise in Western civilization beyond the Mediterranean; and*

*WHEREAS, Armenia was the first nation to officially adopt Christianity as its religion in 301 A.D.; and*

*WHEREAS, Armenian scholars, priests and artists have contributed greatly to our knowledge of the past by preserving ancient writings and treasures through architectural designs; and*

*WHEREAS, the Armenian Diaspora has enriched nations as widely separated as India and the United States with ideas and energy, as well as active citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, the Cities of Alexandria and Gyumri (formerly Leninakan), Armenia, established a sister city relationship in 1990, and have implemented several educational and cultural exchange programs that have enhanced the understanding and communication between the two jurisdictions; and*

*WHEREAS, the present situation in Armenia and in Alexandria's Sister City of Gyumri is one of great need and deprivation through tragedies of nature and man; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alexandria-Gyumri Sister City Committee is sponsoring its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Armenian Festival in Market Square to increase awareness of the Armenian culture and the plight of the citizens in our sister city;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 17, 2003, as:*

**"ARMENIA DAY"**

*in the City of Alexandria, and do hereby urge all citizens of our City and our good neighbors throughout this area to attend this festival and to be entertained and enlightened by the activities offered on this occasion.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2003.*

**KERRY J. DONLEY**                      **MAYOR**

*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

**Beverly I. Jett, CMC**                      **City Clerk**