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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alexandria business is an important part of the heritage of the City of Alexandria and has played an important role in the City's history for more than 250 years; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was founded on commercial activity; and

WHEREAS, our heritage includes historic homes of local merchants as well as historic commercial establishments such as warehouses, shops and taverns; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria business provides a significant amount of support to sustain the operation of the City of Alexandria with commercial taxpayers expected to contribute 74% of the City's tax and non-tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria business contributes generously to the local schools through the Alexandria Educational Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria businesses provide a significant amount of leadership and support to Alexandria's charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria business owners and employees are also Alexandria citizens -- parents, neighbors and friends -- who serve the City on boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of the members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce are Alexandria residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 75% of the members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce employ fewer than twenty people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim 2004 as a year to:

"CELEBRATE ALEXANDRIA BUSINESS"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 17th day of December 2003.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk