

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is committed to ensuring that our community is accessible to all persons with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities was established October 8, 1974 to assist the Mayor, City Council and City Manager in responding to the needs of persons with disabilities in order to remove physical and attitudinal barriers; to foster awareness; to provide a forum for persons with disabilities; and to review and recommend programs, policies and services that might remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities in housing, transportation, building access, public accommodations, employment, health, social services, credit and education; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and all of its citizens have benefitted from the tireless efforts and leadership of the citizen volunteers on the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities will dedicate a commemoration bench and memorial plaque on May 21, 2005 in Oronoco Bay Park in grateful appreciation and in fond memory of the members of the Commission who died while serving the City of Alexandria; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate John Duty Collins, III, who was a severely disabled wheelchair user, and served the City of Alexandria until 1989 advocating for accessible facilities including the Courthouse, City Hall, and the Chinquapin Center, among other buildings; co-chaired the task force establishing the DOT Paratransit Program which received a national award for excellence; provided support to independent living initiatives in Northern Virginia; and was a founding member and served as Vice-Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate Eunice K. Fiorito, who was blind, and served the City of Alexandria until 2000 providing leadership as Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities by developing a plan to focus the resources of the City's departments and agencies on individuals with disabilities and in promoting outreach efforts to advance the needs of women and seniors with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate Robert D. Holland, Jr., who survived a stroke and served the City of Alexandria until 2003 providing wise counsel to the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities on all its efforts utilizing his architectural and business expertise particularly for accessible affordable housing, transportation, disability awareness initiatives, and the scholarship program for students with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate Geoffrey M. Baynard, who had a traumatic brain injury and served the City of Alexandria until 2003 on the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities tirelessly advocating for the employment of persons with disabilities; advocating for the involvement of persons with disabilities in all aspects of city life; and for addressing and redressing the concerns of individuals with disabilities who have been denied public and private services in the community, and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate Felix Wedgwood-Oppenheim who was a post-polio wheelchair user and served the City of Alexandria until 2004 using his enormous knowledge on all aspects of disability and extraordinary counseling skills to develop and further the comprehensive needs assessment plan of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commission will commemorate Barbara A. Gilley who was a post-polio wheelchair user and served the City of Alexandria until 2004 providing tenacious advocacy and leadership as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, breaking new ground in housing, facility and street scape access as well as support services that furthered the civil rights and integration of people with disabilities into the community life of Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2005 as:*

**"COMMEMORATION DAY"**

*in the City of Alexandria and do hereby call upon our citizens to commemorate on this day of remembrance the contributions of John Duty Collins, III; Eunice K. Fiorito; Robert D. Holland, Jr.; Geoffrey M. Baynard; Felix Wedgwood-Oppenheim; and Barbara A. Gilley who served until their deaths on the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities and volunteered their leadership and expertise towards the goal of improving the lives of persons with disabilities in the City of Alexandria.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2005.*

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

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk