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5-11-10

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1979, the Alexandria City Council voted Jean Elliott, a 78-year-old Alexandria resident, as the City's first and only Poet Laureate of record, and with her passing in 1999, the City has not had a Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, in May 2006, City Council re-established an Alexandria Poet Laureate program as a means to confirm the value of literary art and, on February 15, 2007, appointed Mary McElveen as the City's Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Mary McElveen created and presented poems for official City ceremonies, including the Rededication of Freedmen's Cemetery, the annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebrations, the Re-opening and Rededication of the T. C. Williams High School, the Alex Arts Awards, the Alexandria Commission on Women's Salute to Women Awards Dinner, and the Dedication of the Charles Houston Recreation Center; and

WHEREAS, Mary McElveen conducted outreach activities in Alexandria schools, including presenting and conducting poetry workshops with Hammond Middle School; participating as a judge for the Mt. Vernon Community School Poetry Slam; and serving as a judge and speaker for the PTA Reflections contest and the selection of the Alexandria City Public School Poet Laureate, as well as conducting poetry readings at Woodbine Nursing Home, Alexandria City Public Libraries Authors Night, Yockadot Poetics Festival, and the Del Ray Artisans; and

WHEREAS, Mary McElveen also represented the City at the German Embassy poetry program; read with Samuel Hazo, a former Poet Laureate of Pennsylvania and Carolyn Foronda, Virginia's Poet Laureate; and appeared at the National Convention of the League of American Penwomen in Alexandria, VA.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby wish to acknowledge our sincere appreciation for:

"MARY MCELVEEN'S"

service as the Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria. Her vision and efforts to encourage greater participation of children and adults in educational programs and activities have helped make poetry and the literary arts an essential part of the fabric of life in our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of May 2010.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk