

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** DECEMBER 5, 2011

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:**  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE AND SUPPORT THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812 IN VIRGINIA

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a resolution of support for the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the attached resolution; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** From 2011 through 2015, the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission (the "Commission") will commemorate the bicentennial of a war which featured prominently in the history of Alexandria, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our nation. The Commission is requesting local governing bodies to approve a resolution of support of this significant anniversary, and to plan programs and activities that promote a greater understanding of this historic event and invite public participation through thoughtful engagement and education.

During the past several months, the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) began a series of commemorative museum programs and lectures highlighting the War of 1812 and as currently planned, such activities will continue over the next several years, supplementing the Civil War Sesquicentennial programs also underway. OHA has recently posted a new *War of 1812* webpage on the City website to promote a greater understanding of the war and its direct impact on Alexandria, directing viewers to sites and resources associated with the war. OHA is also working with officials from the National Park Service on the development of the new Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia, in which the City of Alexandria will be prominently featured. OHA Director J. Lance Mallamo was

recently appointed by the United States Secretary of the Interior to serve on the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council.

The resolution to be considered by Council expresses support for the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission only, and commits no City funding or assistance to the initiative. In coordination with the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, OHA plans to develop special War of 1812 marketing plans and promotions to maximize heritage tourism opportunities in the City during this multi-year period.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment 1: Resolution

**STAFF:**

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

**To commemorate and support the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia**

**WHEREAS**, the American War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Britain from June 18, 1812, through February 18, 1815, in Virginia and Maryland, along the Canadian border, along the western frontier, along the Gulf Coast, and through naval engagements in the Great Lakes and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; and

**WHEREAS**, the strategic location of the Chesapeake Bay near the nation's capital made it a prime target for the British, and the coast of Virginia figured prominently in the Atlantic theater of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, there were some 73 armed encounters with the British that took place in Virginia during the war, and Virginians actively fought in Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio and in naval engagements; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 70,000 Virginians served during the American War of 1812; and

**WHEREAS**, the American War of 1812 helped forge a national identity among the American states and laid the groundwork for a national system of homeland defense and a professional military within the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the bicentennial of the American War of 1812 provides an opportunity for all Americans to commemorate the independence for which our forefathers so bravely fought; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission to lead the Commonwealth's commemoration of the bicentennial of America's Forgotten War, the Second War of Independence – and localities throughout the State have been requested to commemorate the bicentennial locally with appropriate activities and to participate in several signature events and other numerous programs and activities planned for the Commonwealth;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, THAT:**

The City Council of the City of Alexandria commemorates the bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia, and will endeavor to support the commemoration through locally developed activities and through participation in statewide bicentennial events and programs;

**BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby notifies the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission of its agreement to execute local activities and to participate in statewide events and programs to commemorate the bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia.

ADOPTED this 13th day of December 2011.

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline Henderson, MMC      City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2483**

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Adopted: December 13, 2011

  
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**WILLIAM D. EUILLE      MAYOR**

*ATTEST:*

  
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*Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk*