

WHEREAS, Paul P. Harris, a Chicago, Illinois attorney, and three friends met in Harris' office the evening of February 23, 1905, to form a group for professionals to cultivate business ties and develop friendships, and the group became known as the Rotary Club of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, that first club evolved into Rotary International, and its objectives spread during the past 100 years to more than 31,000 clubs in 166 countries with more than 1.2 million members; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International has established three goals for its centennial year: (1) to completely eradicate polio in the world; (2) to increase membership to 1.5 million men and women worldwide; and (3) to reach an average per capita giving by Rotarians of \$100 each year to the Rotary Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 1928, Rotary International founded the Rotary Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation to support the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through humanitarian, educational and cultural exchange programs, and since that time Rotarians have contributed more than \$1.3 billion for those purposes; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Rotarians in 5,000 clubs in 151 countries have contributed more than \$600 million to eradicate polio in the world, resulting this year in less than 1,000 new cases of polio reported in only 6 countries due to the worldwide immunization program spearheaded by Rotary International; and

WHEREAS, in March, 1928, the same year as the establishment of the Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Club of Alexandria was chartered with 15 distinguished Alexandria business and community leaders as members: James Armstrong, C.S. Taylor Burke, Herbert Cross, H. A. DeButts, Frederick Goodnow, Nelson Gray, Hal Latane, Robert May, Lawrence Rowland, Marshall Shuman, Vernon Slaughter, W.E. Swan, Ed Sweley, Alfred Thompson; and William Woods; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Alexandria has grown in the past 77 years to nearly 150 members, who adhere to the motto, "Service Above Self," and give unstintingly of their time, treasure, efforts, expertise and leadership for the betterment of the Alexandria community and all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, using funds raised by the Alexandria Rotary Club Foundation and the Alexandria Day Nursery and Children's Home Foundation, millions of dollars have been contributed to worthwhile charitable, educational and helping organizations and deserving individuals within the City of Alexandria for projects such as the Presidential Classroom, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchanges, Little League, Salvation Army bell-ringing, the Walk for Breast Cancer, Christmas in April, Beat the Odds, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and many other activities to improve world peace, understanding and public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Alexandria was recognized in 2004 as the premier service club in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Alexandria will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Rotary International and its own 77th anniversary in 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby congratulate Rotary International upon its 100th birthday on February 23, 2005, and the Rotary Club of Alexandria on its 77th birthday, and proclaim March, 2005, as the:

**"ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL
AND
ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA MONTH"**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 22nd day of February 2005.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk