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9-28-04**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the month of October is recognized as National Arts and Humanities Month by thousands of arts and cultural organizations, communities, and states across the nation as well as the White House and Congress for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Arts and Humanities embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and

WHEREAS, the Arts and Humanities enhance and enrich the lives of every American; and

WHEREAS, arts education research findings suggest that the arts close the achievement gap, especially among disadvantaged youth; improve the academic skills essential for reading and language development; build strong mathematical skills; advance the motivation to learn; and promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts industry nationally also strengthens our economy by generating \$134 billion in economic activity annually and by supporting the full-time equivalent of 4.85 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors passed unanimously in June 2004, a policy to urge Mayors and other elected officials to proclaim October as National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria community has an abundance of cultural and artistic activities planned for the month of October, including special offerings such as the "Art on the Avenue" sponsored by the Potomac West Business Association in the Del Ray neighborhood; the "Arts Safari at the Torpedo Factory Art Center" sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Art Center and Alexandria Arts Safari; and the "Taste for Art" sponsored by the friends of the Torpedo Factory; and the "Family Fall Festival sponsored by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; and dance performances, music concerts and theatre productions; and

WHEREAS, many of Alexandria's art groups are celebrating their organizational anniversaries in 2004 including the Little Theatre of Alexandria's 70th, The Art League's 50th, the Alexandria Choral Society's 35th, the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 30th, the 20th anniversaries for both Metro Stage and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and the 10th anniversaries of the Tapestry Theatre and First Night Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, in light of all of these anniversaries, Mayor William D. Euille designated 2004 as the year to promote the arts in the City of Alexandria; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City Of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of October as:

"NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and formally invite and call upon Alexandria citizens to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our nation and to specifically encourage the greater participation of children in educational programs and activities in the Arts and Humanities and to celebrate the cultural riches our City has to offer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 28th day of September 2004.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk