

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems can affect all areas of a person's life, including school, home and work; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems will strike one in five adults each year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, nearly 30,000 American lives are lost each year to suicide and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, all Americans, from combat veterans to hurricane victims, are vulnerable to chronic mental health problems associated with trauma and can benefit greatly from early identification and treatment; and

WHEREAS, people can recover from mental illness with early diagnosis and treatment and lead full, productive lives in the community; and

WHEREAS, an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people with mental health problems go without the help they need; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Community Services Board in collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria's Mental Health Anti-Stigma Workgroup is presenting Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison speaking on "Personal and Professional Perspectives on Depression" on May 29 at 6:45 p.m. at the Minnie Howard School. This is free to the community to promote mental wellness;

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 2008 to be:

"MENTAL HEALTH MONTH"

and call upon the residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit the community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 27th day of May 2008.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk