

Presented by

*The Mayor and Members
of the
City Council
of the
City of Alexandria, Virginia*

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of Alexandria stand firmly committed to remembering our past and sharing the whole truth of our history in our effort to correct historic wrongs and promote justice; and

WHEREAS, Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas were two young Black men who were lynched in this city in 1897 and 1899; and

WHEREAS, students at Alexandria City High School were invited to explore history, both locally and nationally, through the lens of racial justice and its continuing legacy; and

WHEREAS, students at Alexandria City High School reflected on how these issues impact their lives and our community and imagined solutions for a future free from such injustices; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria City and the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project are committed to ensuring racial terror has no place in the present or future, and are actively cultivating a community where diversity is celebrated, that is unified in its efforts to establish equity for all; and

WHEREAS, our students, who are our future, have demonstrated they are dedicated to helping us in this endeavor through their work with the Remembrance Project, that includes:

- Lending their talents to and supporting Remembrance Ceremonies for Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas; and*
- Lending their talents and supporting the Soil Collection Ceremony for Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas; and*
- Attending a pilgrimage to the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, or staying behind and supporting those who could go; and*
- Creating an award-winning film that captured reflections on the student experience in Montgomery, Alabama; or supporting the students in this effort; and*
- Researching and writing essays for the EJI Scholarship Award Contest, or encouraging and supporting students who took part in the contest; and*
- Participating in an oral history project with the Office of Historic Alexandria to preserve this important moment in Alexandria's history; and*

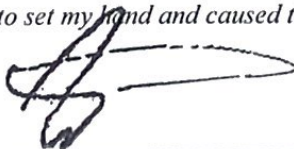
WHEREAS, these students will continue to represent Alexandria and the Remembrance Project and honor the lives of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas after graduation, by telling the whole truth of our history and working to further the cause of equity and social justice for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize the students of Alexandria City High School who have participated in any aspect of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, you are our social justice warriors, whom we will call the

"REMEMBRANCE STUDENTS"

In the City of Alexandria, and I call this acknowledgement and appreciation to the attention of all of our citizens, so that the students of the City of Alexandria will always place first and foremost the rights of all humanity, so that our city may be an example for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this the 20th of May 2023.



MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:


Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk